BLACK SUN SILVER MOON

1

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A Go! Comi manga

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BLACK SUN, SILVER MOON

黒の太陽 銀の月 ①

前田とも
TOMO MAEDA

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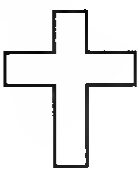

BLACK SUN SILVER MOON

TING-
A-LING
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PERK

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FWAP
.....
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
DASH
ドン
BAM

S--
SORRY I'M LA-
BADUM
WILT
とす
YOU'RE LATE.
WHAT WAS SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU'RE TWO MINUTES LATE?
I WON'T EVEN BOTHER RINGING THE BELL IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME ON YOUR OWN TIME.
...
AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GO BACK HOME.
RIGHT, TAKI?

I DON'T MIND BEING YELLED AT, BUT I MUST SAY IT'S A RATHER SHOCKING ATTITUDE TOWARD SOMEONE YOU OWE A FAVOR.
I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF CLEANING YOUR ROOM!
DON'T EXPECT THE IMPOSSIBLE FROM ME! I RAN ALL THE WAY ACROSS THIS INSANELY HUGE CHURCH, OKAY!?
Oh, you were still cleaning?
My, you're slower than I thought.
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS JUST HAVING TEA OR SOMETHING!
EEK, SCARY...
.....
OR IS SUCH MANNERLESS BEHAVIOR COMMON WHERE YOU'RE FROM?
SHIKIMI-SENSEI...*
YOU MAY THINK THIS DISRESPECTFUL, BUT...
* Priests are normally referred to as "Sensei" or "Father Sensei."
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEEDED, MASTER?
THERE NOW, THAT'S A GOOD BOY.
Heh heh
I RAN OUT OF TEA. WOULD YOU POUR ME SOME, PLEASE?
.....
GRIT
IS THERE...
CLENCH

SQUEAL
SQUEAL
SQUEAL
Oldest son
Nii-chan!
Nii-chan!
Nii-chan!
AS IF HAVING SUCH A LARGE FAMILY DIDN'T MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT ALREADY...
...THREE MONTHS AGO, NEWS REACHED THEM OF HIS LATE FATHER'S DEBT WITH THE CHURCH.
A single mother with 10 children
MAKES FOR A BIG FAMILY
FLAP
SO, AS YOU CAN SEE...
I.O.U.
...HE SAID, SMILING AS HE CAME TO COLLECT THE DEBT.
OH, IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.
SINCE MY CHURCH LACKS SUFFICIENT HELPERS...
He'll be paid a wage salary
...IF TAKI-KUN IS WILLING TO COME FILL A POSITION...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE ME RUN ALL THE WAY OVER HERE FOR THAT, YOU LAZY PRIEST!!
TAKI'S FAMILY WAS IN DESPERATE STRAITS.

HE SEEMED VERY NICE (AT THE TIME, ANYWAY)...
...SO I ACCEPTED THE POSITION (THOUGH, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD MUCH CHOICE).
IOU
That looks quite heavy. May I help?
Nah. I've got it
DRAG
THAT SMILING FACE...
WAS...
...A TOTAL LIE.
Hmph.
I GUESS CINDERELLA...
...MUST'VE FELT LIKE THIS, HUH?
SQUEEZE

JUST A LITTLE REBELLION...
I got some tea for ya!
MWA HA HA HA!
WRIIIING
Just a little
POOOOUR
Damp and dusty
CLICK
.....
WHY DOES HE LIVE ALL THE WAY OUT HERE, ANYWAY? HE SHOULD JUST MOVE INTO TOWN, OPEN A SMALLER CHURCH...
DAMMIT... THAT JERK OF A PRIEST.
This place is friggin huge it makes cleaning hell
SQUEAK
UH, NO THANKS, I GOTTA–
COME, DRINK. IT'S JUST TEA, CORRECT?
Oh, I know exactly what work you've been doing
I've still got work
GRAB
EH?
H!!
YOU MUST BE TIRED AFTER ALL THAT. COME, HAVE A DRINK WITH ME.
HUH ...!?
Hee hee
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!!
AH, THANK YOU.
THADUMP
THADUMP
THADUMP
THADUMP

WE HAVE WORK TO DO TONIGHT.
Now then
...LET'S MAKE THIS THE END OF YOUR LITTLE JOKES, SHALL WE...
...TAKI?
UGH!
GET YOUR THINGS READY.
.....!

SWOOSH
THUD
WELL, YOU MANAGED TO CUT THE HEAD OFF...
...BUT YOU'RE STILL WASTING TOO MUCH ENERGY.
TO THINK YOU'D HAVE SO MUCH TROUBLE WITH ONE NEWLY RISEN...
PANT
PANT

THIS IS AN EASY JOB THAT PAYS WELL. WHY COMPLAIN?
Hair
IS THAT A COMPLAINT?
GIMME A BREAK, OKAY!?
I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN!
You're the one just watching!
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS ANYWA—
KYAAH!!!
Ew it's rotten!!
OR ARE YOU SCARED?
IRK
I'M NOT SCARED! IT'S JUST GROSSING ME OUT, OKAY!?
AS I THOUGHT.
Booty!
♪
YOU AREN'T AFRAID.
THAT'S WHY I CHOSE YOU.
SMIRK

HE ALWAYS HAS THAT GOOFY SMILE... IT WEIRDS ME OUT. I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.
Can he pick up vibes?
AND IT REMINDS ME...
...IS A COMPLETE SOCIOPATH. HE HAS TO BE.
.....
THIS GUY...
...OF WHEN I FOUND OUT WHAT MY JOB REALLY WAS.
SENSEI!!
THADUMP
THADUMP
THADUMP
WH...!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT!?
THAT CORPSE WAS MOVING!!

THAT'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE. YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO WITHOUT KNOWING WHY.
I DON'T CARE *WHO* IT IS! I WANT YOU TO TELL ME *WHAT* IT IS!!
IT WAS THE SHOEMAKER'S WIFE. SHE DIED THREE DAYS AGO. Ha ha!
What luck that it's barely begun to rot
PANT
PANT
WHEEZE
If you'd only sever the head cleanly it'd be a perfect job!
TELL YOU WHAT?
LISTEN TO ME, YOU!!
ANY NORMAL PERSON WOULD TURN TAIL AND–
SO I DID THE BEST I COULD WITH WHAT I GOT, BUT NOW YOU GOTTA EXPLAIN THINGS TO ME!!
THEN WHILE I'M TRYING TO PROCESS THAT, CORPSES START RISING OUTTA THE GRAVES LIKE SOME BAD HORROR FLICK!
EXPLAIN THIS! FIRST, YOU BRING ME TO A GRAVEYARD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND PUT A SWORD IN MY HAND!
HUH...?
YOU DID A PASSABLE JOB.
WELL, YOU DIDN'T GET HURT... SO I'D SAY IT WAS A GOOD PERFORMANCE FOR YOUR FIRST TIME.

IN THIS AREA, THE DEAD RISING FROM THE GRAVE IS A COMMON OCCURRENCE.
LET ME EXPLAIN.
...AND BECOME QUITE A THREAT FOR THOSE STILL LIVING.
IT IS SAID THAT BY SOME MANNER OF CHANCE, DEMONS ENTER THESE DEAD...
THIS MAKES PEOPLE WHO CAN DEAL WITH THESE THINGS..."THE RESURRECTED," THEY'RE CALLED...QUITE NECESSARY.
IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T DO THIS ON MY OWN, BUT IT'S RATHER INCONVENIENT.
I'm not always here you know
HENCE, FOR THESE PAST THREE YEARS OR SO, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE SUCH AS YOURSELF.
Er
I...DIDN'T QUITE... GET ALL OF THAT...
I can see that
I'm not ready!
IN SHORT...

ALTHOUGH, AS FAR AS "EVENTUALLY" GOES...
MUTTER
...IT'S HARD TO SAY HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT.
Talk about egotistical!
PLEASE, SPARE ME! YOU REALLY THINK I'D ENTRUST MY DUTIES TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU?
That's what it is, isn't it?
THAT YOU'RE LEAVING ME TO DEAL WITH THESE WALKING CORPSES ON MY OWN!?
IN SHORT, WHAT? YOU GONNA SAY I'M JUST HERE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE?
You work me to the bone already!
EGOTISTICAL
WELL...
But could you at least develop some survival instinct?
EVENTUALLY, I'D LIKE YOU TO BE THAT COMPETENT.
Ouch
THUD
TAKI...
PLEASE REMEMBER THIS.
SOMEDAY, YOU...
...WILL HAVE TO...
.....?

...KILL ME.
THAT'S...
...WHAT I HEARD, BUT...
SHEESH, WHENEVER HE'S FREE (WHICH IS ALWAYS, ISN'T IT?) ALL HE DOES IS READ.
That guy...
SHUFFLE
HM?
HE SURE CAN'T KEEP HIS ROOM CLEAN!
Yesterday, today
MESS
Sniff
At any rate
He might be bad news
...I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE MEANS.
Hmm
Did he say something else?
FWAP
FWAP

A PHOTO...
THIS... IS...
It reminds me of my siblings back home
.....
IT'S SENSEI... ISN'T IT? HIS HAIR AND EYES ARE A DIFFERENT COLOR.
AND THAT SMILE IS SO DIFFERENT. THOUGH HE SURE SMILES A LOT NOW.
SHOCK
There was even an orphanage back then
IT'S FROM THREE YEARS AGO. OH, HOW NOSTALGIC.
Ohoho I was so much younger
It really looks like him Is that his family?
THAT SMILE IS...
REAL. HMM...
SNEAK
YEP, THAT'S ME!
Huh...?
THREE YEARS AGO? BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR HAIR?
It's silver now Well dark silver
DID YOU DYE IT? AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR EYES?
NO. IT HAPPENED NATURALLY... BEFORE I'D REALIZED.

...ANY TIME YOU WASTE IS TAKEN DIRECTLY OUT OF YOUR SALARY. UNDER-STAND?
YES, SIR!!
Crap!
What's the point of my making a mess?
If you don't clean up...
SHUFFLE
SCURRY

ALSO, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK...
WOULD YOU ORGANIZE MY BOOKS FROM NOW ON?
PUTTING THEM AWAY OUT OF ORDER IS JUST AS INCONVENIENT AS LEAVING THEM AROUND.

NATURALLY !?
BUT HOW COULD IT BE NATURAL !?
But what about your eyes?
The hair I get
WELL, IT'S A LONG STORY.
ANYWAY, JUST SO YOU KNOW...

...I CAN'T READ.

.....
'Cause you're the one who leaves 'em out!
SORRY, BUT I CAN'T.
BECAUSE ...

IS THERE SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT IT?
I'M USED TO IT BY NOW! I DON'T CARE.
IF YOU'RE GONNA LAUGH AT ME, GO AHEAD.
WHY WOULD I?
Huh...
NOT EVEN A LITTLE?
Not at all!
NOT AT ALL?
THAT'S RIGHT.
MY, THAT'S RARE FOR THIS DAY AND AGE.
...HOW MUCH I'VE BEEN MADE FUN OF FOR IT.
SINCE YOU CAN READ, YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND...
IS THAT SO?
WELL...
IT'S EMBARRASSING, 'CAUSE IT'S SOMETHING EVERYONE CAN DO.
WHEN YOU'RE FREE, I'LL TEACH YOU.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE WILLING, LEARNING IS EASY.
THEN YOU SHOULD LEARN.

N-NO, NOTHING'S WRONG!
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
OH!!
I'm working! I'm working!
You're wasting time and money again...
Hm?
ONLY WHEN HE'S FREE.
THAT SURPRISED ME.
Can he work as fast as he can talk?
THADUMP THADUMP
So even he can have serious moments. That's Sensei for you.
IN THE TOWN NEARBY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DIDN'T EVEN SMILE.
I WAS SO SURE HE'D MAKE FUN OF ME.
HE'LL LAUGH ABOUT ANYTHING.
I WASN'T EXPECTING THAT.
Dammit

AND THIS IS A ROMA FRUIT.
WHSPR WHSPR
YOU CAN DRINK IT IF YOU DRY AND BOIL IT.
Hmm
THIS IS A MUKU FRUIT.
IT TASTES QUITE BITTER, BUT IT'S GOOD FOR THE STOMACH.
IT RESEMBLES SEVERAL OTHER FRUITS, ONE OF THEM POISONOUS, SO YOU MUST [illegible] ATTENTION.
TAKI?
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
NO... IT'S JUST...
?
TURN
DON'T YOU THINK THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE ACTING STRANGE?
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE AVOIDING US...
It's been a while since I've gone out in public
AH, YES.
THAT'S MY FAULT.

HUH?
WAIT A MINUTE, SENSEI.
YOU'RE GOING TO BUY THAT FRUIT YOU'VE BEEN TOUCHING, RIGHT?
OF COURSE. HOW MUCH?
THAT'LL BE ONE COPPER COIN.
PLACE THE MONEY IN THAT DISH THERE.
THANKS.
MUTTER
WHY'D HE MAKE HIM PUT IT IN THE DISH? IT WOULD'VE BEEN FASTER TO TAKE THE MONEY BY HAND.
HOW RUDE...
THAT'LL BE TWO COPPER COINS. PUT THEM THERE PLEASE...
JINGLE
I'd like to buy this
Thank you
TMP TMP TMP
SHIFT
MOVE
.....?
WHAT IS WITH THOSE GUYS!?
TREATING YOU LIKE YOU'RE DIRTY OR SOMETHING!
What bad manners!
Aah
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

IT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE KNOWS...
...WHAT I DO IN THE CEMETERY AT NIGHT. IT OFFENDS THEM.
.....!
What!?
BUT...! BUT IT'S ALL FOR THEIR SAKE!
YES, IT IS.
Let's go home
THERE ARE OTHER REASONS... I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND.
Right?
THAT'S HOW THEY ARE.
HUMAN HEARTS, I MEAN.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?
THE REASON THEY CAN GO THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT HAVING TO DIRTY THEIR HANDS...
WHAT DOES HE...?
EVEN THOUGH HE'S THE REASON THEY LIVE IN PEACE...

HOW THE HELL IS THAT FAIR!?
SENSE!!!
WHAT IS–
I'M SORRY, I WAS WRONG!!
CLOSE
THE TRUTH IS, I'VE HATED YOU THIS WHOLE TIME.
Can you blame me!?
HUH?
YES?
I SEE.
Thanks a lot
BUT I REALIZE I WAS WRONG. THOSE UNGRATEFUL PEOPLE...THE WAY YOU PROTECT THEM ANYWAY...
If it were me, I'd hate it!
I'M SURE I COULD GROW TO LIKE YOU. SO YOU CAN TRUST ME A BIT MORE.
I MAY NOT UNDERSTAND YOU, BUT I AT LEAST KNOW YOU'RE A KIND PERSON!
...THAT'S ALL.

That felt good to get out
And you talk a lot too!
YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO ALWAYS SAYS WHAT'S ON HIS MIND, HUH?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A RATHER CONVENIENT INTERPRETATION?
YEP!!
.....
HEY, I CAN THINK WHATEVER I WANT.
SAY WHATEVER YOU LIKE! I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A BAD GUY.
UH...BUT, THERE'S REALLY A LOT MORE TO IT THAT YOU'D-
BECAUSE IF YOU WERE, YOU WOULDN'T TRY TO CONVINCE ME.
OH, AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO SMILE LIKE THAT.
I MEAN IT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF AROUND ME.
BUT I'M NOT FORCING MYSELF...

RECENTLY, THAT IS...
...I HADN'T REALIZED I WAS SMILING.
HONESTLY...

SPLASH
SPLASH

THAT WAS ABOUT 70% EFFORT...
YOU MIGHT BE IMPROVING A LITTLE.
SHEESH.
You're so demanding.
GRUMBLE
YOU'RE NOT DOING WELL ENOUGH FOR PRAISE YET.
What you want a pat on the head?
FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD, YOU'RE SO RUDE! JUST PRAISE ME ALREADY.
YOU REALLY...
...DON'T FEAR ANY-THING.
I COULD TELL RIGHT AWAY...YOU'RE NOT TIMID AT ALL.

.....
SENSEI...
...TELL ME SOME-THING.
THAT FIRST NIGHT IN THE GRAVEYARD...
YOU SAID...
...I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU..
WHAT DID YOU MEAN?
JUST WHAT I MEANT.
YOU SIGNED ON FOR THIS JOB.
AND YOUR TASK IS TO DEAL WITH THE RESURRECT-ED. SO...
...
SOMEDAY, YOU'LL–
WAIT A SECOND.
THAT'S THE PART I DON'T GET. WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH–
IN OTHER WORDS, I–
?

OH, DEAR.
YOU'RE STILL BEING CARE-LESS, TAKI.
HUH?
WHAT DO-
YOU --!
.....!!

SPLAT
YOU WERE NEGLIGENT.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU? THEY WON'T STOP UNTIL YOU CUT OFF THE HEAD.
...A BIT MORE VIOLENT. YOU'RE LUCKY YOU ONLY GOT SCRATCHED.
THESE GUYS ARE AS PERSISTENT AS COCK-ROACHES.
ALTHOUGH ...

I WANT YOU TO LEARN HOW TO FACE THE DEMONS ON YOUR OWN.
PAIN IS A GOOD TEACHER. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HURT, YOU'LL TRY HARDER.
I'M NOT YOUR GUARDIAN, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THINKING.
PLEASE DON'T MISUNDER-STAND.
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO DO!? YOU SAW IT COM-ING, DIDN'T YOU!?
DON'T TOY WITH ME!!
SO WHY–
WAIT A MINUTE!
YOU LITTLE ...!
CLENCH
DON'T WORRY. I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR WANTING TO HIT ME.
—

SENSEI.
ARE YOU...ARE YOU EVEN HUMAN!?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET ALONG WITH YOU...
WHAT A BLIND, STUPID THING TO THINK!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH! I FINALLY DO SEE THE REAL YOU!!
I'M GOING HOME!
ACHE

THE WOUND WASN'T THAT DEEP, BUT IT JUST WON'T STOP HURTING...
DAMMIT.
THROB THROB
IRK IRK
IT KEPT ME UP ALL NIGHT. THIS SUCKS.
HAVING ME DO A FULL DAY'S WORK, IN MY CONDITION!
I'D PLANNED TO SPLIT RIGHT THEN AND THERE, BUT...
OR SO I SAID.
WOBBLE
ACHE ACHE
And here I am, doing it anyway
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT GUY! WHAT IS HE, A DEMON HIMSELF!?
...THE NEW LEAVES OF THE SHIMA PLANT, RIGHT?
LET ME THINK...TO STOP THE PAIN AND THE SWELLING, I'D WANT...
Tho' my intuition was the only thing I ever really believed in
WELL, SHOWS HOW MUCH I KNOW.
I KNEW HE WAS BLUNT AND DISTANT, BUT I THOUGHT THAT...DEEP DOWN...
I DION'T THINK HE WAS THIS COLD.
I SWEAR.
THROB THROB
OOOW!!
WHEN I'M DONE WITH THIS, I'LL HAVE TO RUB SOME MEDICINE ON IT...
SWEEP
SWEEP SWEEP
THIS REALLY SUCKS.

SWEEP
I DON'T KNOW! I JUST DON'T KNOW!
SWEEP
SWEEP
GASP
YOU SHOULD MASH THIS AND APPLY IT TO THE WOUND.
WRONG. THAT'S A KIKU FRUIT; IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY MEDICINAL PROPERTIES.
Aren't these the exact same plant?
WHAT HEALS THE SWELLING IS THE KURA FRUIT.
SWEEP

.....
WIPE WIPE
SWEEP SWEEP
FWAP FWAP
.....
SQUEAK SQUEAK
THIS IS SO AWKWARD!
What am I supposed to say to him!?
WRING
Ugh, he's in my way!
!
WH...
WHAT?
Ack so suddenly.
Crap. I spoke to him!
GET READY, QUICKLY. WE'RE GOING OUT.
SURPRISE !!
TAKI.
SLATTER
Eek!
Urgh... can't reach...

HUH?
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ONE STEP BEHIND.
HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN TOO FAR. LET'S GO.
THE MORE TIME THAT PASSES, THE MORE TROUBLE HE'LL BE.
AGITATED...
MUTTER
THAT'S HOW HE FELT, I THINK.
EVEN NOW...
CAN'T YOU USUALLY TELL WHEN THEY'RE ABOUT TO...?
Well well
.....
I ALWAYS COULD, BUT...

TAKI!!
...TO LOOK...
?
...THAT FEELING...
...STILL LINGERS.
ANYWAY ...
LET'S SPLIT UP...
AH!
CLANG

TMP
LEAP
ERGH!
WHAT THE...!
HE'S GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO MOVING HIS BODY.
They're sluggish when they wake
HE'S GAINED HIS NORMAL ABILITIES. WE HAVE TO DISPOSE OF HIM QUICKLY.
HEY, WHAT IS THAT THING!? THE OTHERS WEREN'T THIS FAST!

ALL RIGHT, I GOTTA DO THIS FAST.
I MAY NOT LIKE IT...
EVEN WITHOUT HIS ADVICE...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
IF WE DON'T ACT FAST, HIS INTELLIGENCE WILL BE RESTORED.
SO, WE MUST–
GOT IT!
Can I finish?
DASH!
HE DIDN'T TELL ME I WAS IN DANGER.
!!
WHY?
YESTERDAY...
...HE DIDN'T TRY TO HELP ME AT ALL.
WAIT... ADVICE?
WAS HE ACTUALLY CONCERNED FOR ME?
ACTUALLY, I REMEMBER...
TAKI!!

THUNK
WHAT DID HE MEAN BY 'AGITATED' ...?
DAMN!
MY LEG...
NOT GOOD...

I CAN'T–
DASH
GRIN
I CAN'T MOVE.
I CAN'T GET AWAY–

HUH?
SPLATTER
I
YOU REALLY TAKE YOUR TIME, DON'T YOU?

GRAB
SENSEI!?
WHA...

YOU NEED...
...A DOCTOR...
Very Confused
YOUR...
YOUR CHEST! YOU'RE HURT!!
YOU...
HE PRO-TECTED ME?
WHY...
...DID YOU...
A...ARE YOU... OKAY?
GRAB
IDIOT! YOU'RE ANY-THING BUT FINE! WE HAVE TO GET...
TAKI.
REMEMBER WHAT YOU ASKED ME YESTERDAY?
WHAT?
YOU ASKED IF I...
...AM REALLY HUMAN.
I'M FINE.

MY ANSWER IS...
"NO."
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
HUH...?
THIS WOUND WILL HEAL SOON.
LET ME...
...TELL YOU THE REST OF MY STORY, TAKI.
...IS BECAUSE THIS BODY...
...WILL BECOME A DEMON.
THE REASON YOU'LL NEED TO KILL ME SOMEDAY...

THE LOCALS ALL KNOW ABOUT IT.
THEY'RE MORE FRIGHTENED OF ME THAN OF WHAT I DO IN THE CEMETERIES AT NIGHT.
HUH?
AFRAID OF ME, WHO'S GRADUALLY LOSING THE ABILITY TO FEEL, WHOSE HAIR AND EYES ARE TURNING SILVER.
IT'S AN EXTREMELY RARE CASE...
...A HUMAN TURNING INTO A DEMON. IT'S WORSE THAN MERELY BEING POSSESSED BY A DEMONIC SPIRIT, AND UNLIKE THE LATTER CASE I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYONE RECOVERING.
IN THIS REGION, SILVER IS THE COLOR OF DEATH. THE COLOR ASSOCIATED WITH DEMONS.
BUT...BUT THAT'S JUST SUPERSTITION...
BUT I KNOW.
I KNOW THAT THERE IS SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME.
IT'S HEALED-?
HIS WOUND...
JUST AS I KNOW WHEN THE RESURRECTED RISE IN THE CEMETERIES...

SOMEONE WHO...
SILVER...
...WILL NOT HESITATE TO KILL ME.
...HAIR...
...AND EYES...
LISTEN TO ME, TAKI.
THIS IS WHY I SEARCHED FOR YOU.
I NEEDED SOMEONE WHO HAS THE STRENGTH TO STRIKE DOWN DEMONS.
SOMEONE WHO HAS NO FEAR WHEN CONFRONTING EVIL.
...ARE SAID TO BE THE SYMBOLS OF DEMONS. THAT'S...
SEN-
THAT'S ALL.
...BUT I CAN'T HAVE YOU DYING ON ME. THAT'S WHY I PROTECTED YOU.
THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT. I WASN'T TRYING TO SAVE YOU, I WAS TRYING TO SAVE MYSELF. I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT YOU BEING INJURED...
WAIT...

PLEASE DON'T...
...WHAT EVERYONE KEEPS TELLING ME.
SQUEEZE
.....
WHAT...
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING... I...
...MIS-UNDERSTA-
I SAID WAIT!!
SHOCK
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!!

WHY DO YOU PUT YOURSELF THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
But I explained it for three pages!!
Yes!
NO, I MEANT I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN FEEL THAT WAY!
Wait that didn't come out right Uh, lets see...
I MAY NOT BE TOO BRIGHT, BUT I CAN'T SHAKE MY INTUITION.
YOU WRAP YOURSELF IN THIS APATHY, BUT...
I'M NOT DOING IT ON PURPOSE. I TOLD YOU, I—
"...WILL SOMEDAY BECOME A DEMON." RIGHT?
I FINALLY UNDER-STAND.
I WAS ALWAYS SO FRUSTRATED BECAUSE I COULDN'T READ YOU.
YOU ALWAYS PRETEND TO BE SO COLD LIKE RIGHT NOW. YOU'RE TRYING TO UPSET ME!
AFTER ALL, JUST NOW...
...HE SAVED ME.
THE DAY WE WENT INTO TOWN...
...AND YESTERDAY, TOO.
YOU'RE JUST BELIEVING WHAT EVERY-ONE SAYS ABOUT YOU!

BEFORE I KNEW IT...
...HAPPINESS, SADNESS... I COULDN'T TELL THEM APART ANY-MORE.
THEY'RE FADING AWAY. AND WHILE I UNDERSTAND THIS IS SOMETHING TO FEAR...
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL.
I DON'T EVEN UNDER-STAND MYSELF.
SO THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU?
YOU'RE JUST GO-ING TO LIE DOWN AND ACCEPT IT?
YOU CAN FIGHT IT, RESIST IT TO THE END!
...IT'S TOO LATE—
IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHY... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THAT...
...IF YOU CAN'T READ, YOU SHOULD LEARN HOW.

AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME THAT?
–THAT AS LONG AS YOU'RE WILLING...
...LEARNING IS EASY.
AND YET HERE YOU ARE, JUST GIVING UP!?
YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR FATE! DO YOU THINK I'M WRONG?
IS THE FUTURE ALREADY DECIDED FOR US?
IT CAN'T BE!

DON'T GIVE UP.
IF HUMANS CAN TURN INTO DEMONS, THE OPPOSITE SHOULD BE POSSIBLE, TOO.
THERE COULD BE...
...A WAY FOR DEMONS TO TURN BACK INTO HUMANS!!
AND ANYWAY, YOU'RE NOT A DEMON YET!
FIGHT IT! I'LL HELP!
WE'LL FIND A WAY TO-GETHER!
IF IN THE END, THERE'S STILL NO HOPE...
...WILL YOU GRANT ME THE RELEASE OF DEATH?
I UNDER-STAND. YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
BUT... WHAT IF...
...IT DOESN'T CHANGE ANY-THING?

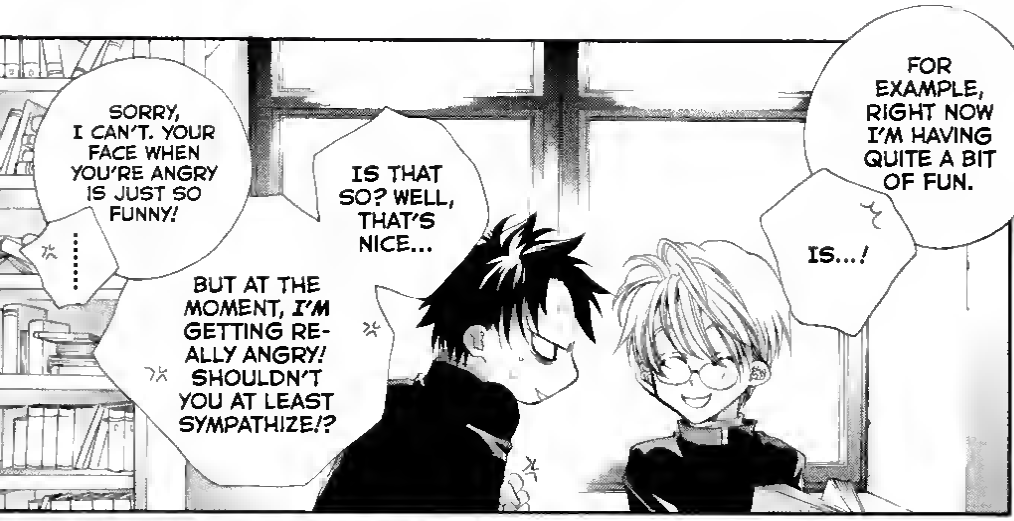
...I'LL DIE RIGHT ALONGSIDE YOU!
AND THEN...
I'LL KILL YOU CLEANLY, WITHOUT ANY PAIN.
D...!
I'M BEING SERIOUS ...!
DON'T LAUGH!
I...I'M SORRY, I COULDN'T HELP IT...
Ha!
You couldn't help it!?
HEH...
!?
.....

.....
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, MAKING A DECISION LIKE THIS ON YOUR OWN?
THANKS TO YOU...
ANYWAY!
THAT'S MY DECISION, AND I'M STICKING TO IT!
AND JUST TO LET YOU KNOW, I DON'T INTEND TO DIE IN VAIN!!
...I HAVE NO CHOICE...
...BUT TO BE BRAVE AND NOT GIVE UP.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
IF YOU JUST KEEP FIGHTING...
...FOR SOMEONE FEARLESS...
...NOT EVEN KNOWING MY REASON FOR DOING SO.
IF YOU FIGHT UNTIL THE VERY END AND BEAT THIS THING...
I THOUGHT WHAT I WANTED WAS JUST A STRONG MAN...
I KEPT SEARCHING ...

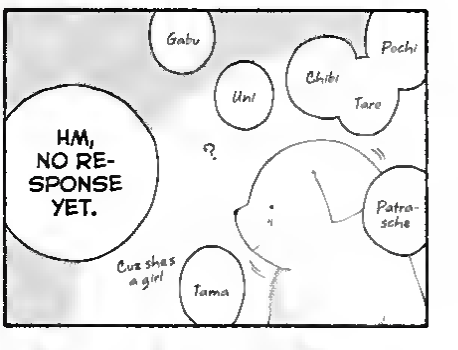
TING-
A-LING
TING-
A-LING
TING-
A-LING
...BUT BEING WITH TAKI...
...HAS MAOE ME REALIZE...
...I WILL SEE YOU AS A HUMAN BEING.
...THAT WHAT I'VE WANTED ALL ALONG IS SOME-ONE BRAVE ENOUGH...
...TO STAND BY MY SIOE... AS A TRUE COMPANION.

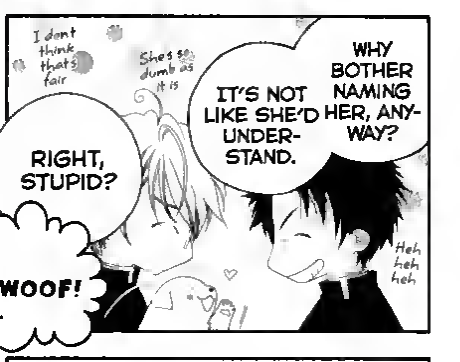
THERE YOU GO AGAIN, WORKING ME LIKE A DOG FOR YOUR OWN AMUSEMENT!
UGH! WOULD YOU GROW UP ALREADY !?
HUFF
PANT
MESS~
TMP TMP TMP
BAM!!
YOU ONLY TOOK A MINUTE AND A HALF. SEE, YOU'RE LEARNING!
Ah
YOU'RE JUST PLAIN CRUEL, AREN'T YOU? ADMIT IT!
I'M NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.
Admit it! Be sincere about something!
Tea please?
DAMN YOU!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!! NOT ONE BIT!
At least make an effort!
Ha ha ha!
SHRIEK
I'M TELLING YOU, I'M NOT. A HA HA HA!
OH, NO!? LIKE HOW!?
ERGH ....!
SNAP

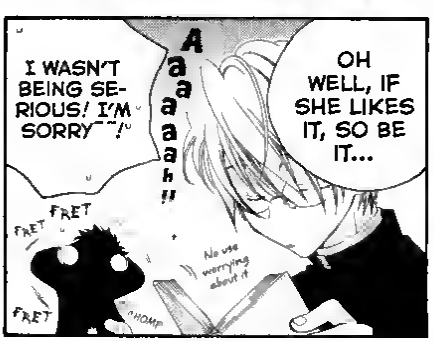

FOR EXAMPLE, RIGHT NOW I'M HAVING QUITE A BIT OF FUN.
IS...!
IS THAT SO? WELL, THAT'S NICE...
BUT AT THE MOMENT, I'M GETTING REALLY ANGRY! SHOULDN'T YOU AT LEAST SYMPATHIZE!?
SORRY, I CAN'T. YOUR FACE WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY IS JUST SO FUNNY!

WRONG ANSWER!
YOU NEED TO STUDY HARDER, YOU PITIFUL DEMON!
BLACK SUN SILVER MOON †END

Let's Give Her a Name







PERSON WITH A KIND HAND

I'VE BEEN...

...LOOKING FOR A HAND...

...FOR A LONG TIME.

やさしいての ひと
PERSON WITH A KIND HAND

IN THIS REGION, THERE ARE BEINGS KNOWN AS "THE RESURRECTED."
IT IS SAID THEY COME FROM DEMONS TAKING OVER THE BODIES OF THE DEAD.
THEY LEAVE THE CEMETERIES AT NIGHT AND CAUSE HARM TO THE LIVING.
THE PEOPLE HIDE IN THEIR HOMES, UNABLE TO FIGHT BACK.
BUT A SELECT FEW HAVE THE POWER TO CONFRONT THESE DEMONS...
THIS YOUNG BOY, TAKI, IS ONE OF THOSE UNIQUE PEOPLE.
IT'S ALSO SAID THAT HE LACKS A BASIC SURVIVAL INSTINCT.
THEN THERE'S THE ENIGMATIC CASE OF THE SILVER-HAIRED FATHER SHIKIMI.

TAKI, WHO CAME TO REPAY HIS FATHER'S DEBT...

...TO THIS MAN WHO WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME A DEMON...

DESPITE THIS, THEY GET ALONG WELL.

MOST OF THE TIME, ANYWAY.

THE QUIET, PEACE-FUL DAYS CONTIN-UED...

...WITH VERY LITTLE TO BREAK THE PATTERN.

UNTIL ONE DAY...

...HAS PROMISED TO KILL HIM WHEN THE TIME COMES.

TAKI FOUND A DOG. (OR PERHAPS THE OTHER WAY AROUND.)
WAG
WAG
WAG
GET IT OFF.
Get this thing off me
SHIKIMI-SENSEI...
IT WAS A SILVER-HAIRED PUPPY.
...
IT'S DEFECTIVE.
LICK
LICK
LAP
DRIBBLE
He's an adult, not a child
AH!
THAT'S A RATHER STRANGE HAT YOU HAVE THERE.
Though I must say it suits you quite well.

WHERE'D YOU FIND HER?
EARLIER ...WHEN I WAS CLEANING...
Come here, little one
Ah! Yoink
My, she's fluffy
AS YOU CAN SEE.
Get her off!
CHOMP
Oh my
...SHE ATTACKED ME FROM BEHIND.
WHAT COULD SHE HAVE BEEN DOING SO DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS?
HECK IF I KNOW!
I wonder if she got lost
GLARE
UGH, WHAT AN UGLY, STUPID DOG!
HURRY UP AND THROW HER OUT SOMEWHERE!
Pant Pant
FREEZE
LIFT
Eek!
Gah! She got dread all over me! Stupid dog!
WHINE
WHINE
WHINE
STARE STARE
"Eek"?
RETREAT

SHIVER
SHOOP
ARF
SLIP
FREEZE
SHOOP
HEH...
RETREAT
SQUIRM SQUIRM
A HUMAN WHO FEARS NOTHING, WHO'LL TAKE A LEAK IN A ZOMBIE-INFESTED CEMETERY AT NIGHT WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, AND LIVES WITH A HALF-DEMON LIKE MYSELF...
I only tried taking a leak!
This is killing me! Stop it please!
AH HA HA HA
I-I'M NOT SCARED OF THAT PEA-SIZED MUTT!
JUST...
TO THINK YOU'RE AFRAID OF A PUPPY WHO'S BARELY ONE-TENTH YOUR SIZE!
It's not like she's a monster!
...GET IT OFF ME.
Help

HA HA HA HA
DON'T LAUGH!
Get her away from me!
WAH!
SHE'S ...
WHY? SHE'S SO ADORABLE.
SHE'S NOT THE LEAST BIT CUTE!
IT'S JUST...!
Just look at her round little belly
I'D NEVER HAVE EXPECTED YOU TO BE AFRAID OF DOGS.
AFTER ALL THE SCARY THINGS YOU'VE SEEN.
That's not it!
My stomach's dying
Now that's what I call a laugh
WAVE WAVE
NO! IT'S NOT THAT I'M AFRAID OF HER! I JUST HATE DOGS!
NERVOUS
I CAN'T HELP IT. I HATE HER.
COWER
DOGS ARE SUCH STUPID ANIMALS!
THADUMP THADUMP
WAVE WAVE

SINCE I DON'T LIKE 'EM, I'LL NEVER...
K-CLICK
NEVER, NEVER, NEVER TAKE CARE OF A DOG!!
ENOUGH! JUST PUT HER OUTSIDE ALREADY!
WHAAAT?
He really your stupidity is one of your stronger traits
FOR ALWAYS BEING CALLED STUPID YOURSELF, YOU SURE DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM CALLING OTHERS THAT...
SHUT UP!
Keeps her ever there!
PUSH
IF SHE'S LUCKY, A WOLF'LL PICK HER UP!
THROW HER OUT? A POOR PUPPY LIKE HER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOUNTAINS?
ANYWAY...
PLEASE, THAT'S-
She'll grow fangs and claws soon enough!
IT'LL BE FINE! SHE'LL GO FEAL IN NO TIME!
.....?
.....
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT KID...?
SLAM
ばたん!!
EMOTIONALLY CHALLENGED ...?
That hurt
AN EMOTIONALLY CHALLENGED PERSON LIKE YOU CAN OWN AS MANY DOGS AS YOU LIKE!
Hmph!!
HE'S RIGHT ON THE MARK, THOUGH...
?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, LITTLE GIRL?
LICK
LICK
LICK
HMM.
YOU'RE HUNGRY, AREN'T YOU?
WHINE
WHINE
LICK LICK
LICK
IN THAT CASE...
...I'LL GET YOU SOMETHING TO EAT.
CLATTER
Little mongrels strutting around showing their butts to the world
CUTE!? DOGS AREN'T CUTE, THEY'RE HELPLESS AND STUPID AND PATHETIC...
I'M NOT JOKING WITH HIM ABOUT THAT DOG!
DAMMIT!

HMPH!
I HATE DOGS ...
THAT STUPID DOG...
SHE JUST WOULDN'T QUIT BITING ME.
SWEEP
SWEEP
SWEEP
UGH, I HATE THEM. I HATE DOGS!
ARF
ARF
ARF
NOT TO MENTIDN MY CLOTHING...
I'm the one who has to make it
This little
ガブリ
GLOMP
WHY DOESN'T HE DD SDME-THING!?
IF THAT STUPID FLUFF BALL STAYS AROUND, I'LL WIND UP CDVERED IN TOOTH-MARKS.
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
She's got a pretty big mouth for a little girl

キャン
ARF
キャン
ARF
キャン
ARF

Eek!
That's my bed!
Z
Don't let go keep her away from me!
Get it off! Hold her!
Yes yes
Heh heh heh
WHINE WHINE
ARF ARF ARF ARF
ARF ARF ARF ARF
.....
.....
ISN'T IT NICE TO BE LOVED?
Get her offa me!
I'm so jealous
CHOMP
WHAT'S NICE ABOUT THIS!?

I TOLD YOU...
DIDN'T I...?
LICK LICK LICK
WHY DO YOU HATE DOGS SO MUCH?
MY, SHE'S COMPLETELY ATTACHED TO YOU.
NO, HER TEETH ARE!
I BELIEVE SHE'S JUST PLAYING–
SHUT UP!!
I HATE DOGS... BECAUSE THEY'RE STUPID!
TURN
AH, I SEE. HATE FOR ONE'S OWN KIND, IS IT?
Jerk
.....
.....
LIFT
LUNGE

WHY?

WHY DO I HATE THEM?
Slow down!
CHEW
CHEW
Nng!
Not so fast need some milk?
RUMMAGE
LISTEN.
SENSEI?
YES?

OH, DON'T WORRY. SHE'LL BE FINE!
THE RESURRECTED PREFER THE TASTE OF LIVING HUMANS.
YOU KNOW...
...IT'S DANGEROUS OUT HERE, WHAT WITH THE ZOMBIES AND ALL...
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO BRING THAT STUPID DOG HERE?
I DIDN'T BRING HER. SHE FOLLOWED YOU.
See?
.....
Living but
A dog ?
Living human
COME NOW! PAY CLOSE ATTENTION THIS TIME!
Huh.
I...I SEE...
So it's just me
OH, SHUT UP ALREADY!
My tail
I'm a decoy?
ARF ARF ARF
ARF!
Oh is that so? I'm glad to hear it!
Made for each other
ARF ARF
Yes what is it?
Ha ha ha! She's so amusing
ROLL
Mmph!

WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN IF WE LET THEM BE?
HUH?
ABOUT THE RESUR-RECTED...
OH...
...TAKI?
LET ME THINK...
BUT THEY DON'T JUST SLAUGHTER BLINDLY.
I KNOW THEY'RE DANGER-OUS, BUT...
RIGHT.
LET'S HAVE A LITTLE LESSON.
ARF ARF
FIRST, THEY GO...
...TO THE PEOPLE THEY KNEW IN LIFE.
FAMILY, LOVERS, FRIENDS...THE CLOSER THEY WERE, THE MORE LIKELY.
It's another story if someone gets in their way first but
THEN THEY TAKE THE LIVES OF THOSE PEOPLE. THEY DRINK THEIR BLOOD...
IN ESSENCE, THEY TRY TO KILL THE PEOPLE THEY LOVED.
...OR STEAL THEIR SOULS.

THEY SAY THE RESURRECTED ARE DEMONS INHABITING DEAD BODIES...
TWITCH
...AND THOUGH THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT HUMAN ANYMORE...
...THEY STILL CARRY THE MEMORIES FROM THE LIVES THEY LIVED.
SO, TAKI.
THIS IS JUST MY THEORY, BUT...
ARF!!
!!
ARF
ARF
ARF

MOVE IT, YOU IDIOT!
CLANG
YOU -!
YOU LITTLE-!
DASH
UH-OH.
I'VE GOTTA GET THE DAMN DOG...
SORRY! You were right in the middle of telling me something
ARF
SWIPE
ARF
ARF
ARF
ARF
Shut up!!
Shut up and get away from here!
CHOMP
Don't bite me!
...MY THEORY, BUT...
ARF
ARF
THIS IS JUST...
ARF
ARF
Argh!

...DON'T UNDER-STAND?
SLIP
...YOU REALLY...
...AS FOR WHY THAT DOG IS SO ATTACHED TO YOU...
ARF!!
DOGS...
たっ DASH
OH, NO!
!
AH-!
ドサ THUD

ARF
キャン
WHA...!
BUT EVEN MORE...
I HATE...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?
...DOGS.
...I HATE MYSELF FOR NOT PROTECTING THEM.
キャン
ARF
RUN AWAY, YOU STUPID--!
ESPECIALLY STUPID DOGS.
キャン
ARF!

TAKI...!
DASH
THUD
HIS HAND.
HIS KIND HAND.

I REMEMBER IT.

THE PERSON WITH THE KIND HAND.

IT'S THAT STUPID DOG?

THUD
I WAS DREAMING.
CLATTER
FLAP
SIGH...
STUPID DOG...
You're looking healthy
My head hurts get outta my face
PAT
PAT
.....
You're not listening are you?
LICK
LICK
LICK
LICK
WHINE
WHINE
SENSEI...
I've already read this one
I'll leave him be for now
FIDGET

LICK
LICK
LICK
You're heavy you idiot
WHEN I WAS A KID...
...IN MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD...
...THERE WAS A DOG THAT'D BEEN ABANDONED.
A BLACK PUPPY.

...I'D SECRETLY BRING HER FOOD.
MY FAMILY DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO OWN A DOG...
...BUT SHE WAS ALWAYS SO HUNGRY THAT...
I THOUGHT FOR SURE SOMEONE HAD TAKEN HER IN, BUT...
THEN...
...ONE WEEK, SHE DISAP-PEARED.
EVEN WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT NOW...
...I STILL GET MAD.
THE POOR THING.
THEY MUST HAVE PUT HER OOWN.
THIS MORNING A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TOOK HER AWAY.
YOU UNDERSTANO, WHAT WITH ALL THE FERAL DOG SCARES RECENTLY.
OH MY... THEY MUST HAVE...
OH MY, THAT DOG'S BEEN TAKEN AWAY.
I WONOER IF SOMEONE PICKEO HER UP.
OH, THAT DOG?

AT THE PERSON WHO ABANDONED THAT DOG...
AT THE OFFICIAL WHO TOOK HER AWAY...
...AND AT THE DOG, TOO, FOR BEING TAKEN AWAY.
...THINKING SHE'D FOUND A NEW FRIEND.
THE DOG PROBABLY WENT WILLINGLY TO HER DEATH.
FOR NOT UNDERSTANDING...
WITHOUT ANY DOUBT AT ALL...
I COULDN'T...
...SAVE HER.
EVEN THOUGH I WANTED TO.
AND THAT'S WHY...
...THE ONE I'M REALLY ANGRY AT...
...MORE THAN THE PEOPLE, OR EVEN THE DOG...
...IS MYSELF.
DOGS ARE STUPID.
SO... I HATE THEM.
BUT...

...I CAN NEVER PET ANOTHER DOG.
LISTEN TO ME...
...TAKI.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A KISS IS?
WHAT?
A KISS.
You don't know?
DO I HAVE TO SHOW YOU?
RETREAT
Heh, heh, heh...
I'm kidding
?
!!
IT'S A WAY OF SAYING...
..."I LIKE YOU SO MUCH..."
"...I COULD EAT YOU UP."
IT'S ONE OF THE MORE PRIMITIVE URGES IN HUMAN BEINGS...
...SO IT SEEMS TO BE A BASIC INSTINCT THAT RESURFACES.
SCARY, DON'T YOU THINK?
HEH

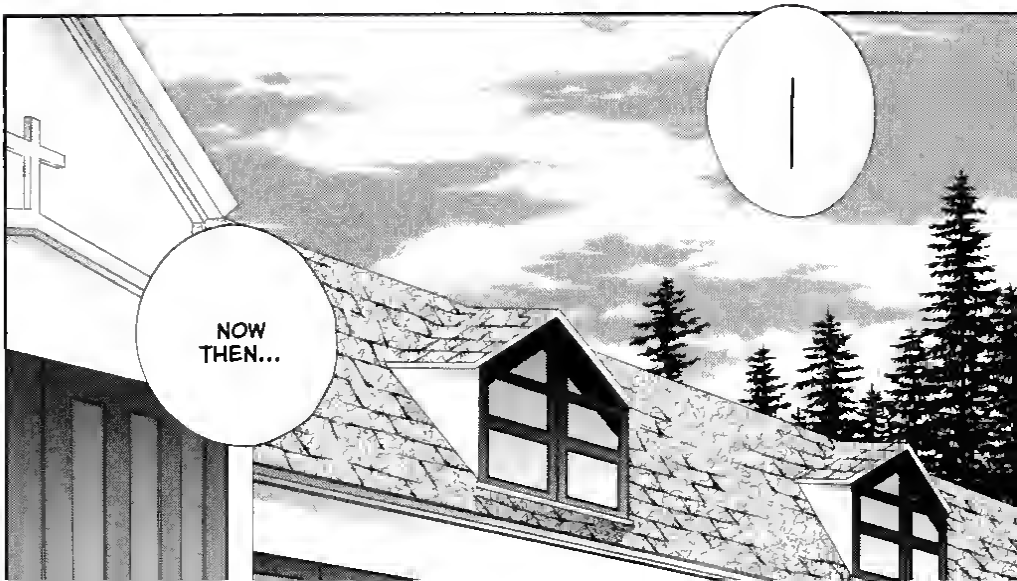
IT'S NOT THAT THEY WANT TO KILL THE ONES THEY KNEW IN LIFE...
IT IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE A BASE DESIRE TO BECOME ONE WITH THOSE THEY LOVE.
IT'S THEIR WAY OF SHOWING THAT LOVE.
That's quite warped wouldn't you say?
Oh, it seems I have a new scarf
BUT...
...IF WE LOST OUR BASIC INSTINCTS, WE'D HAVE NOTHING.
THE RESURRECTED ARE THE SAME WAY.
TO THEM, A KISS AND A BITE ARE THE SAME THING.
LISTEN, TAKI.
DON'T YOU THINK THE DOG BITES YOU...
...FOR THE VERY SAME REASON?
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM BEING SIMPLE PLAY.
...WHEN YOU SAW THAT, JUST LIKE ME AND THE RESURRECTED...
...THIS DOG'S EYES ARE ALSO SILVER?
TAKI.
WHAT DID YOU THINK...

ONCE YOU'VE DIED, YOUR AGING STOPS. YOU MAINTAIN THE SAME FORM FOREVER.
Yes
THAT...
...WAS OVER TEN YEARS AGO...
HOW, YOU ASK? WELL, THE HAIR AND EYES OF THOSE RESURRECTED TURN SILVER.
I was like that too
AFTER ALL, SILVER IS THE COLOR OF EVIL.
THE PEOPLE IN TOWN ARE ALL DARK-HAIRED AND DARK-EYED, BUT...
Speaking human wise
BUT SHE WAS A BLACK DOG.
You saw them
REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU MAY THINK...
...FAILED HER. WHY SHOULD SHE BE SO ATTACHED TO ME?
BUT I...
B... BUT...
DON'T YOU SEE THAT SHE JUST...
...WANTED TO BE PETTED AND PLAYED WITH AGAIN?
Here
...THAT DOG OBVIOUSLY THOUGHT OTHERWISE.
SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT KID FROM HER CHILDHOOD ALL TOO WELL, SEE?
WELL, AT LEAST THAT'S MY GUESS.

AFTER SO MANY YEARS...
THE PASSING OF SO MANY YEARS...
...MAYBE YOU SHOULD PET HER...
...IF FOR ONLY A MOMENT.
I SEARCHED...
...AND SEARCHED...
...OF SEARCHING FOR THE ONE PERSON SHE REALLY WANTED TO SEE AGAIN...
...AND NOW THAT I'VE FOUND YOU...

...PET ME ONCE MORE, PLEASE.

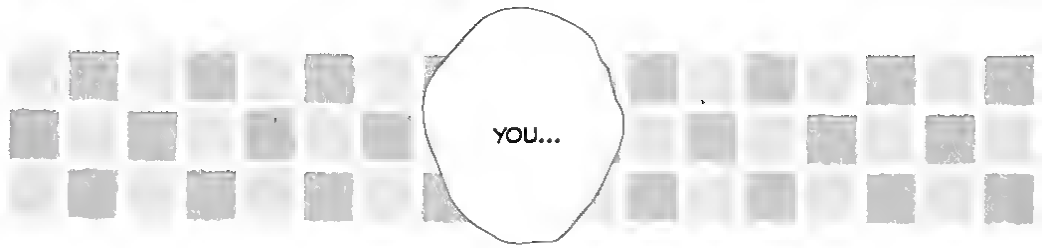
WITH THAT HAND.



WELL, I'M WILLING TO TAKE CARE OF HER SO WHY DON'T WE KEEP HER?
You're holding a grudge
WHAT TO DO...IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR AN EMOTIONALLY CHALLENGED PERSON LIKE ME TO TAKE CARE OF A DOG THAT'S CLEARLY ATTACHED TO SOMEONE ELSE ALREADY...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I THOUGHT YOU WERE AFRAID OF HER.
Makin me work with injuries
Know what I mean?
I love you too Sensei
LICK LICK
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THIS DOG?
DO WITH HER?
Huh?
SLIDE
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO OWN HER.
S...
SEE!? I'M FINE!!
HA!
So far away
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT AFRAID OF HER! I JUST HATED HER IS ALL...
Ergh!
THEN HERE YOU GO.
Oh?
Hold her
FOOP
AH, HERE WE ARE.
OH WELL. I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.
PLUS YOU'D BE UNABLE TO FEED HER.
CLING
Hold me more!
RATTLE
YOUR BODY GOT SO USED TO YOUR ANTI-DOG SENTIMENT THAT IT CAN'T TURN BACK. THAT'S QUITE A SERIOUS ILLNESS THERE.
Give me until tomorrow
Huh...?
COME, GIRL.
IT'S DINNER-TIME.
IF SHE WERE A NORMAL DOG, SURE.
THAT'S NOT TOO HARD, I COULD DO IT-
RUMMAGE RUMMAGE
FEED?
FEED...

YES, I AM. SEE?
LICK LICK LICK
Thanks for the meal!
IT'S THIS DOG'S FOOD.
DRIBBLE
Why don't you come closer?
WHAT'D YOU DO?
I TOLD YOU, I'M FEEDING HER.
YEAH, BUT YOU'RE NOT HOLDING ANYTHING...
What did you take it the nose
LICK LICK LICK
HERE YOU GO.
JUST A LITTLE.
.....?
That tickles
LICK LICK

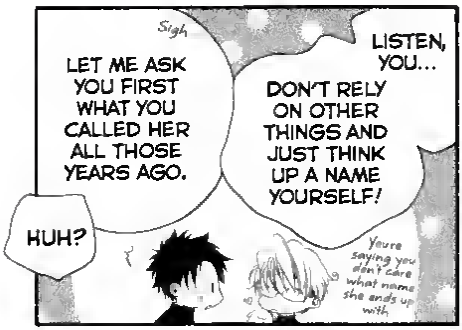
Food...?
See? I told you you wouldn't be able to do it
But I'll heal right away
That tasted good
LICK LICK LICK
See?

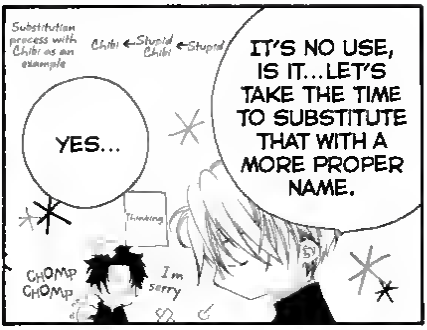

YOU...

WHY WOULDN'T IT BE GOOD?
YOU THINK... THIS IS REALLY SUCH A GOOD IDEA?
Ethically speaking
It is a monster
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS DOG WON'T BITE ANYONE BESIDES YOU.
BUT ANYWAY...
?
WE HAVE TO THINK UP A NAME FOR HER.

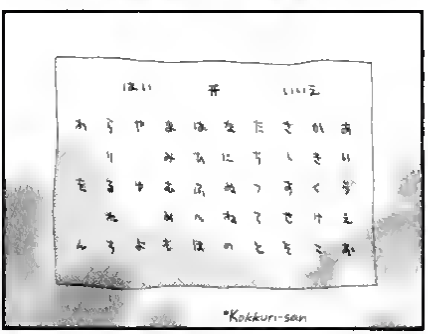
PERSON WITH A KIND HAND †END

Let's Give Her a Name 2


Sigh
LET ME ASK YOU FIRST WHAT YOU CALLED HER ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.
HUH?
LISTEN, YOU...
DON'T RELY ON OTHER THINGS AND JUST THINK UP A NAME YOURSELF!
You're saying you don't care what name she ends up with.

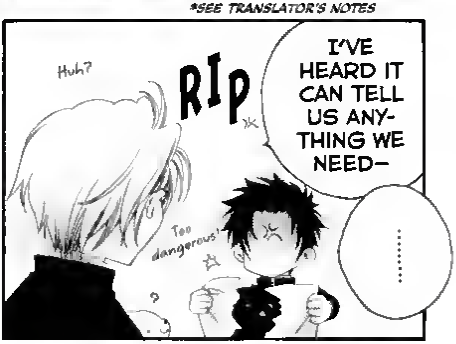

Substitution process with Chibi as an example
Chibi ←Stupid Chibi ←Stupid
YES...
Thinking
CHOMP CHOMP
I'm sorry
IT'S NO USE, IS IT...LET'S TAKE THE TIME TO SUBSTITUTE THAT WITH A MORE PROPER NAME.

SOMETHING THAT COULD BE QUITE USEFUL FOR US.
WHAT'S THIS?
LET'S FIRST DECIDE WHAT NAME WE WANT.
It's an appendix but
Already satisfied
Since I can be such a pain here we go
Meanie!



*SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

Sigh
GUESS SO...
Huh- so the first girl's name in the dictionary is Age, eh?
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO RELY ON SOMETHING AFTER ALL.
Work- work
LICK LICK LICK

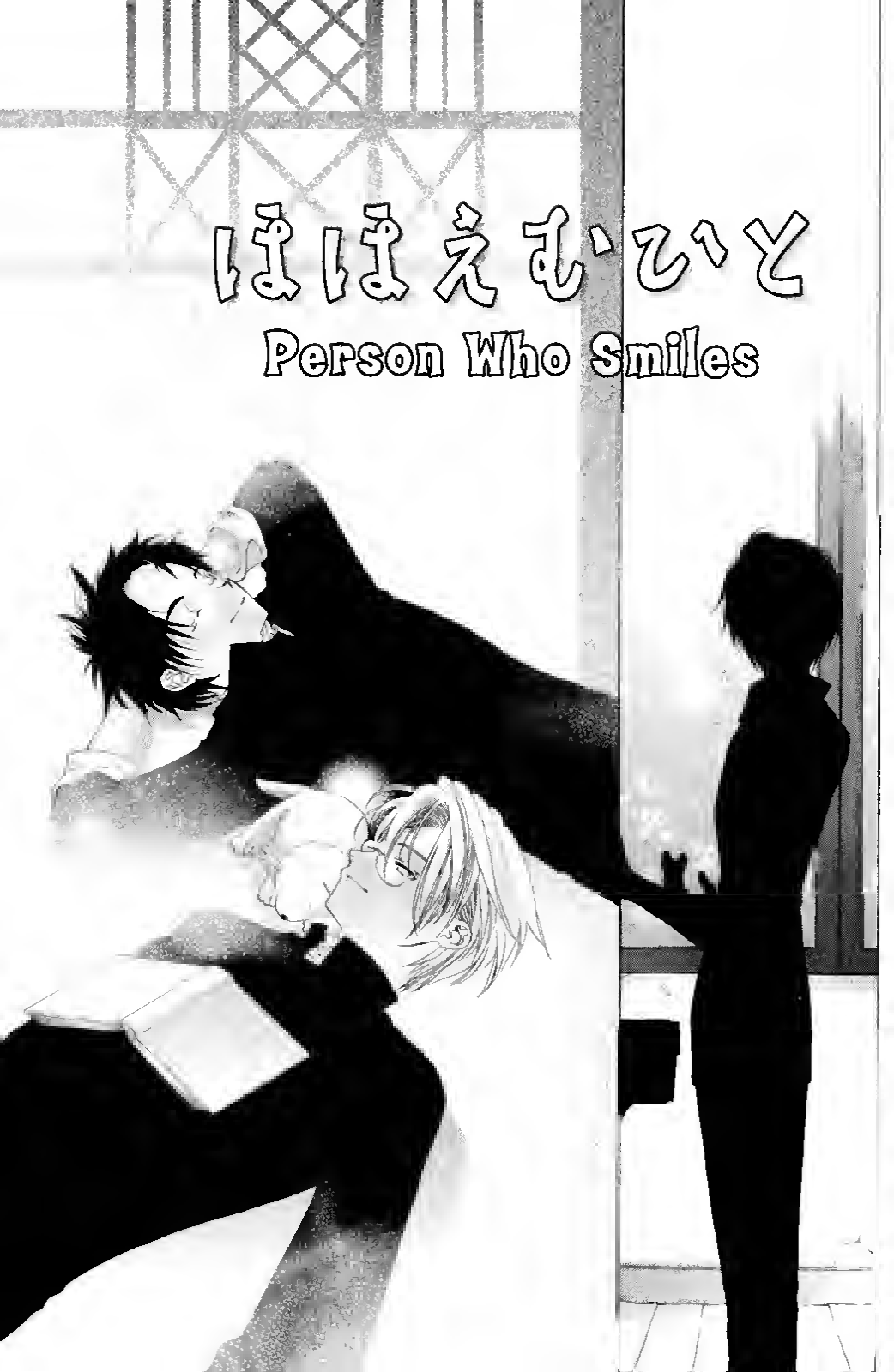


He sure knows a lot for not even being able to read the characters

ほほえむひと
Person Who Smiles
THAT SMILING FACE...
SPLASH

ほほえむひと

Person Who Smiles



IT'S BEEN HALF A YEAR SINCE THE YOUNG BOY TAKI HAS BEEN TAKEN UNDER THE WING OF FATHER SHIKIMI.
AS ALWAYS, THE BOY CANNOT AVOID BEING MADE TO WORK HARD DAY IN AND DAY OUT.
BY DAY HE'S A SERVANT IN THE CHURCH.
BY NIGHT HE EXTERMINATES RESURRECTED IN THE CEMETERY.
AND THE PRIEST, TOO, WHO IS A HALF-DEMON WITH BOTH EYES AND HAIR SILVER... THE COLOR ASSOCIATED WITH EVIL.
BESIDES THE ADDITION OF THE RESURRECTED DOG, AGI (♀) TO THE CHURCH, NOTHING ELSE HAS CHANGED.
THESE TWO HUMANS AND PET ARE LIVING IN PEACE IN THEIR OWN WAY...
...AND GETTING ALONG WITH EACH OTHER IN THEIR OWN WAY...AND THEN...
FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS...
...I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT IT...

IF IT LOOKS THAT WAY TO YOU, THEN YOU SHOULD BE TAKEN TO A DOCTOR, TAKI.
Spare me the flogging of a dead horse
SNIFF SNIFF
YOU'VE REALLY BEEN WONDERING THAT FOR A WHOLE SIX MONTHS?
SHIKIMI-SENSEI...
ARE YOU ACTUALLY WORKING?
As a priest, I mean.
IT WAS THE SAME AS EVER.
You know you can't read
PANT PANT PANT
New new
CLINK

MORNING
SPARKLE
Phew all done
MIDDAY
MESS
EVENING
SPARKLE
NIGHT...
MESS
EXHAUSTED
This makes no sense.
INDEED, NOT A THING HAD CHANGED.
THOUGH WITH THE COMING OF AGI, HE SEEMED TO BE MORE POWERED UP THAN USUAL.
Come on girl! Fetch!
Heh, heh, heh
This smell
Hm?
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF

Hm?
WELL, I'M FREE SO I SUPPOSE I COULD.
THEN DO IT!
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
SO YOU DON'T WORK?
By the way would you get her offa me?
I guess she's not ready to play fetch
CHOMP
Display of Affection
SO WOULD YOU CONSIDER HELPING ME WITH THE CHORES THAT I'M DROWNING IN MORNING TO NIGHT?
NOT REALLY, NO.
Thanks
Then do it!
BUT SINCE NOT ONE PATRON COMES TO THIS CHURCH, THERE'S NOTHING TO DO.
Nope, not really feeling inclined to that either.
Or maybe going outside every once in a while!?
You're always in my way!!
Well how about not making such a big mess then!?
I'D LIKE YOU TO HELP ME CARRY THEM BACK.
AH.
Speaking of outside
Or maybe not.
DROOP
OH WELL, AT LEAST THAT'LL GIVE ME THE DAY OFF.
I ORDERED SOME BOOKS A WHILE BACK, SO THEY SHOULD BE IN BY NOW.
MORE BOOKS?
SO TOMORROW...
CHOMP
Final blow

THE NEXT DAY
Left at Home
Where's that guy?
Huh?
FLOUR...
CHEESE, BUTTER...
BEANS, DRIED MEAT...
LET'S SEE, THEN...
BY THE WAY.
AREN'T WE A LITTLE LOW ON SUGAR, TOO?
TEA...
AH.

SCURRY
SCURRY
OH, IS THAT SO?
RIGHT?
Never goes into the kitchen
MURMUR MURMUR
PSST
STARE
WHISPER WHISPER
TONS OF ATTENTION AS ALWAYS...
YOU SURE ARE POPULAR, SENSEI.
.....
MAKES IT EASY TO WEAVE THROUGH THE CROWD.

I DON'T LIKE IT.
They're suspicious
THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR.
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE.
Sigh
I SWEAR...
It's all ridiculous to me
BUT THAT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
NO, IT IS.
THE JOB OF "HUNTING" IS LOATHED NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO.
AND ON TOP OF THAT, I'M EN ROUTE TO BECOMING A DEMON.
Thank you
WE CAN'T CHANGE IT.
IT IS MY FAULT.
You could say "you reap what you sow."

YOU'RE STILL HUMAN NOW.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GIVE UP, I'LL BE ON YOUR SIDE.
YOU KNOW, TAKI... ACTU-ALLY...
...THERE'S ANOTHER REASON-
EVEN SO...
SENSEI, THIS HERE! BUY THIS FOR ME!
TA-
AH!!
FREEZE
Aww I couldn't even ask for that little bit?
LET'S SEE...
IT'LL HAVE TO BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR SALARY.
CHEAP-SKATE.
.....
Ta da

OH...
BY THE WAY, I'M PRETTY HUNGRY.
LET'S GET SOMETHING TO EAT, SENSEI.
He bought it
It was worth the deduction
WE'VE COVERED ALL THE BASIC NECESSITIES.
LAST IS THE BOOKS... AND A LITTLE BUSINESS AT THE PUBLIC OFFICE.
I'M ALL RIGHT.
YOU SURE?
WHILE YOU'RE EATING, I'LL FINISH UP THESE LAST ERRANDS.
WELL THEN, I'LL BE IN THAT SHOP.
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, COME AND GET ME.
SEE YOU LATER.
.....

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE EATEN OUT.
I COULD GO FOR ANYTHING AT THIS POINT.
CREAK
THIS SEAT OPEN?
GO AHEAD.
SO CAN I GET SOME-THING TO EAT HERE?
WE HAVE A LUNCH SET.
THAT SOUNDS GOOD.
HERE YOU GO...
THANK YOU!

MURMUR
YOU OUGHTA BE MORE CAREFUL.
GRUMBLE
AH!
S... SORRY...
Safe!
DROP
WATCH IT, OLD MAN!
WHOA!
BUT LOOK... THAT...
Yeah...
...FROM... -DERER PRIEST'S PLA...
Whisper
STARE
STARE
STARE
YOWZA...
WHISPER
SO I'M POPULAR NOW, TOO?
I give up
WELL, WHATEVER.
MUTTER
MUTTER
JUST IGNORE THEM, JUST IGNORE THEM...
They're quite loud about it...
WHISPER
WHISPER

...
...BUT...
...IT WAS AN ANNIHILATION.
YEAH, THAT...
...SILVER-HAIRED...
WHSPR
WHSPR
WHSPR
-DERER...
...DEMON.
Scary!
"-DERER"?
"YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW."
WHAT?
THERE'S ANOTHER REASON...
ANNIHILATION...?
WHSPR
WHSPR
YES?
YEAH. That's me
YOU'RE THE YOUNG MAN FROM THE CHURCH IN THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS, RIGHT?
HEY...
BOY.
PSST
LEA
GASP
I've only had a bite of my food.
"Boy"? I'm no boy I'm 18 years old
I WON'T SAY ANYTHING BAD, BUT YOU'D BETTER GO HOME RIGHT NOW.

THAT MAN IS NO DEMON.
Not yet
HE'S A REGULAR HUMAN!
Or half of him is
AS FOR WHY YOU ASSUME SO MUCH JUST BECAUSE HIS HAIR AND EYE COLOR CHANGED, I DON'T KNOW.
IDIOT, I'M SAYING THIS BECAUSE I'M REALLY CONCERNED FOR YOU.
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, YOU SEEM LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN...
I can't let good food go to waste I've been poor long enough to know
CHEW CHEW
YEAH, THANKS. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN.
YOU'RE WRONG.
HUH?
CHEW
I'M SURE THERE ARE OTHER PLACES–
SO WHY ARE YOU STAYING WITH A DEMON LIKE HIM?
HEY, OLD MAN.
...THE TRUTH BEHIND THAT PRIEST IS THAT–
IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE, THE STENCH OF THE DEAD'LL STICK TO YOU.
SURE HIS SILVER HAIR AND EYES ARE SCARY ENOUGH BUT...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT "WHAT"!
LIKE WHAT?
?
AND HIS JOB MAY BE DETESTABLE, BUT IT'S ALL FOR YOUR GUYS' SAKE SO–
YOU...
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?

WHAT!?
GO BACK HOME TO THE MOUNTAINS WITH THAT *MURDERER* OF A PRIEST.
Hey I take baths regularly!!
HURRY UP AND FINISH YOUR FOOD.
THE LONGER YOU STAY HERE, THE MORE TROUBLE YOU'LL CAUSE.
HMM...
I WONDER IF I'M STILL A LITTLE TOO EARLY.
OR MAYBE...
IF HE'S STILL HAVING HIS MEAL, I SHOULD KILL SOME TIME.

...I'LL GO ON AHEAD...
...BY MYSELF.
BUMP
Whoa there
TAKI?
OOF!
YOU SURPRISED ME. SO IT WAS YOU?
THAT WAS FAST. YOU ALREADY FINISHED YOUR MEAL?
.....

I
TAKI?
FREEZE

DID...
...SOME-THING HAP-PEN, TAKI?
.....
DID YOU...
...HEAR SOMETHING? TAKI?
TAKI?
.....——

WHY DO YOU STAY QUIET?
BECAUSE YOU DON'T CARE? OR BECAUSE...
...IT'S A NATURAL RESPONSE ON THEIR PART?
WHY?
...HATE IT?
DON'T YOU...
ALL THIS TROUBLE THEY GIVE YOU?
BECAUSE IT'S YOUR FAULT?
AFTER ALL, I DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER.
...EVEN IF THAT'S WHAT IT IS...I DON'T LIKE IT.
I COULON'T SAY ANYTHING IN RESPONSE...
...TO THE WORD "MUROERER."
I DON'T...
...UNDER-STAND...
...BUT...

HAVING TO LISTEN TO THEM TALK LIKE THAT ABOUT SOMEONE THEY DON'T KNOW NOW...
...PISSES ME OFF TO NO END.
I DON'T KNOW THE *OLD* YOU.
ALL I KNOW IS YOU AS YOU ARE NOW.
SO ALL THIS TALK AND BEHAV-IOR OF THEIRS...
I'M NOT SAYING I DON'T...
I DON'T LIKE IT.
...HAVE ANY DOUBTS AT ALL.
BUT...

AFTER ALL...
WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT ME.
IT'S OKAY.
...SINCE IT'S PROBABLY TRUE. BUT...
Hey! Listen to people when they're talking!!
SEN ...!
I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY SAY...
I'M OKAY NOW THAT I HAVE SOMEONE WHO'S ON MY SIDE.
AFTER ALL...
YOU...
YOU MAY BE FINE WITH IT, BUT I...
...EVEN IF IT'S TRUE...
...I DON'T CARE. I KNOW HIM...
...ABSOLUTELY...
...HATE IT.
...AS HE IS NOW.
I BELIEVE...

I HAVE...
...A DUNCE LIKE THAT WITH ME...
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE NEVER ASKED ABOUT IT...
...YOU TELL ME YOU'LL HAVE FAITH IN ME. ME, A HALF-DEMON.
EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING...
...AND SO...
...I REALLY AM FINE WITH IT.

LET'S GO.
TO OUR...
...HOME.
RIGHT?
I REMEMBER THAT.
THAT SMILE...
...IS THE SAME ONE I SAW THEN.

SIX MONTHS AGO...
...ON THE DAY...
...HE CAME TO TAKE ME WITH HIM.
THAT SMILE HE GAVE WHEN HE SAW MY LITTLE BROTHERS.
Oh, hello there
Hello!
QUACK
QUACK
HE SEEMED SO KIND, BUT...FOR AN INSTANT, FOR SOME REASON...
...HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS CRYING.
THAT MURDERER...
"OH, THIS PERSON..."
"..MUST HAVE REMEMBERED SOMETHING PAINFUL," WAS MY FIRST THOUGHT.

EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE...
...THE MAN I KNOW NOW IS SENSEI.
THE SENSEI THAT SMILES IN THAT WAY OF HIS... THIS MAN HERE.
I'M FINE WITH WHATEVER HAPPENED IN HIS PAST.
?!
DROOP
I BELIEVE WHAT I SEE.
I BELIEVE...
...IN THIS PERSON BESIDE ME.
WE'RE HOME.

!!!!!!!!!!!!
Where'd you go when you left Agi alone? Huh, where'd you go? Where'd you go!?
CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP
CHOMP
かばっ
WHA-!
WHUMP
TMP TMP
THUD
PHEW! THAT WAS HEAVY.
I THOUGHT MY ARMS WOULD FALL OFF. DON'T ORDER SO MANY BOOKS NEXT TIME!
ACTUALLY, I ONLY ORDERED THREE OF THOSE.
The others were impulse buys
NEXT TIME I'LL GO GET THE ORDER BY MYSELF, SO-
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
AAAAH...
LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK
Sensei!!
I was so lonely! So lonely! So very lonely!
WAG WAG
A... AGI...
Okay?
I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH...
PLUCK

W--WAIT, AGI...
CALM DOWN...
LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK
I...
UUGH...
I'M NOT AFRAID OF THAT MUTT!
What?
LICK LICK LICK LICK
Hm?
—
LICK LICK LICK
.....
SOME-HOW...
SO HE CAN STILL SMILE LIKE THAT?
YES?
NUZZLE NUZZLE NUZZLE

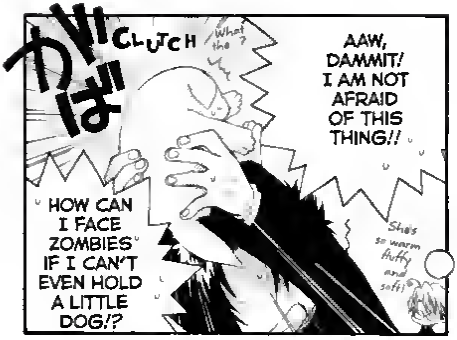
THEN HE'LL BE FINE.
I WAS WORRIED YOU'D LOST IT.
NUZZLE NUZZLE NUZZLE NUZZLE
LOST WHAT?
OH, NOTHING...
NOW THEN, I'LL GET DINNER READY.
♫
.....?
WAG WAG
OH.
ONE MORE THING, TAKI...
YEAH?

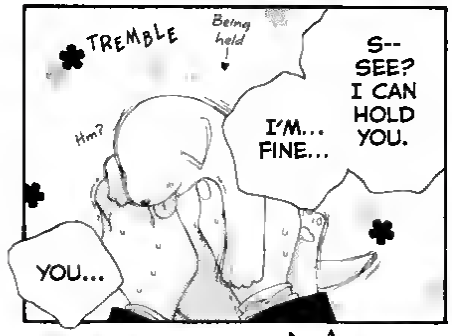
WHAT IS IT?
THESE BOOKS.
Ack they're not tied together now!
PLEASE TAKE ALL THE BOOKS BUT THE TOP THREE TO MY ROOM.
Yes sir
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER ONES? WHERE SHOULD I PUT THEM?
What are they?
YOUR ROOM.
HUH?
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO LEARN, RIGHT?
Oh, these look very interesting
sniff sniff sniff
THEY'RE BOOKS ON READING AND WRITING.
Um
AAAH... DE... DEDU...
'DEDU'?

YOU'RE NOT GONNA SAY THEY WERE DEDUCTED FROM MY SALARY?
These right here
DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO SAY TO ME?
This kid is unbelievable
IF YOU DON'T WANT THEM, JUST SAY SO.
OR FROM MY STOCK CASH?
You really are poor!
I'm sorry I wasn't being serious

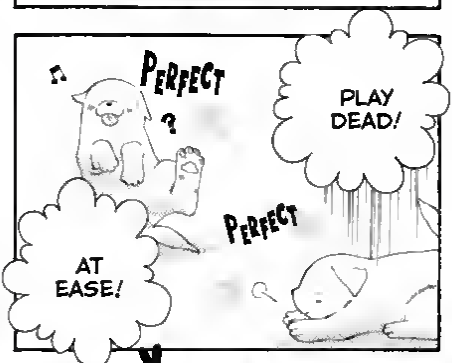
PERSON WHO SMILES†END

Let's Hold Her


わ!!
CLUTCH
What the?
AAW, DAMMIT! I AM NOT AFRAID OF THIS THING!!
HOW CAN I FACE ZOMBIES IF I CAN'T EVEN HOLD A LITTLE DOG!?
She's so warm fluffy and soft!



Let's Do Some Training



BLACK SUN
SILVER MOON

魔法のことば

Magic Words

I WANT TO BE BIG.
EVERYTHING ABOUT ME IS SMALL. MY BODY, MY HANDS...
...SO EVERYONE WHO SEES ME KNOWS WHO I AM.
I WANT TO BE BIG AND STRONG...
BUT...

...YOU'RE FINE THAT WAY.
-RU.
LORD RARU.
IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP, LORD RARU.
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL MORNING.
NN...

COME NOW, WAKE UP.
ARE YOU READY TO GET DRESSED?
Uuh...
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE HAVING LOVELY WEATHER AGAIN TODAY.
DID YOU SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT?
Time to brush.
NNG...
HM?
I'M NOT A FOOL! I CAN DO IT MYSELF!
But
AND I HATE MILK!!
It'll help you grow...
Wa!
DO WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS EVERY MORNING!?
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD!
I'M THE KING HERE!!
LONG, LONG AGO...
IN THE GREAT COUNTRY OF IMULU, THERE WAS A VERY SMALL KING.

THE KING OF IMULU WAS VERY CLEVER, IF SOMEWHAT HARD TO PLEASE.
HE WAS A FINELY CULTURED MAN, BUT...
...HE RARELY SMILED, AND HATED HAVING TO APPEAR BEFORE OTHERS.
I'M FINISHED WITH THAT.
Beh-
PASS.
...WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR QUEEN. THIS'LL BE THE LAST FIVE.
THEN THE ROYAL HISTORIAN WANTS TO DISCUSS HIS LATEST DISCOVERIES IN THE ARCHIVES.
10:00 IS YOUR MEETING WITH THE NEIGHBORING KINGDOM'S ENVOY.
HERE IS TODAY'S SCHEDULE.
WHAT?
I'M NOT GOING THROUGH THAT AGAIN.
.....
IN THE AFTERNOON ARE YOUR MONTHLY INTERVIEWS WITH THE PRINCESSES...

But...
YOU CAN'T DO THAT, MY LORD! WHAT WILL THE PRINCESSES THINK!?
WHY DOES IT MATTER? THEY'RE ALL THE SAME.
It's a waste of time
B-B-BUT... THAT WOULD BE TERRIBLY IMPOLITE!
Hmm.....
SO YOU'RE SAYING IT WOULD BE RUDE TO CANCEL THE MEETING?
GRIN
HUH?
Y-YES! PRECISELY!
WELL THEN, GOOD LUCK, ADELLE.
AND SO...
HERE IS THE PRINCESSES' DRESSING ROOM.
YOUR HIGHNESS!
WHAT IS IT YOU WISH?
LET ME DRESS YOU IN SILKS!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO LISTEN TO A BALLAD?
I CAN PLAY THE HARP.
YOUR MAJESTY!
OH, SIRE!

I GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, BUT...
...I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK.
Er
UH...
Er
(All at once)
GLOMP
OH, DON'T BE SUCH A PARTY-POOPER!
PERHAPS ANOTHER DAY–
Heeelp meee!
.....
UM...
SQUEAL きゃ
NO, COME OVER HERE!
MAYBE WE SHOULD GO SOMEWHERE PRIVATE...
Uh! W-wait!
You can't go!
SQUEAL きゃ
DRAG ずる
DRAG ずる
DRAG ずる
S–SOMEBODY!
Oh god! Oh god
WAIT!
COME ON! THIS WAY!

I TOLD YOU THEY WERE ALL THE SAME.
THEY'RE ALL JUST AFTER THE THRONE.
Even look the same
THAT'S WHY THEY FLIP WHEN THEY FIND OUT I'M THE REAL KING.
Well, I'd better be going
Just look at the time! nnn
What a cute little boy!
SHEESH...
I DETEST THAT TYPE.
Mutter
IT'S OBVIOUS THEY'RE ONLY AFTER THE CROWN.
Hmm
I KNEW IT.
But At least they're honest
Hmm
ARE YOU THE KING'S HELPER?
THAT CERTAINLY DIDN'T MEET MY EXPECTATIONS.
I'D HEARD HIS HIGHNESS WAS A SHREWD BUSINESSMAN.
What gives?
SHOCK
!
Oh, well
YOU'RE AN IMPRESSIVE LITTLE BOY.

UH...
R... RARU.
OKAY, RARU.
Oops my real name
T-T-T-T-T-T-T-T
MY NAME IS SESHUN.
LAA D' SESHUN.
MAYBE SHE'S A – WHAT ARE THEY CALLED AGAIN? – ODD-EYE.
HOW RARE.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HUH?
HER EYES ARE DIFFERENT COLORS...
Y YEAH.
GRIN GRIN
HUH?
UH...
Plain lookin
JUST WHO IS SHE?
YOU'RE PRETTY YOUNG TO BE WORKING.
L...
.....
Hm?
...WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME A TOUR OF THE CASTLE?
HUGS
SES-HUN?
YOU HAVE GREAT TIMING!
LEAN
OH, SHE'S A PRINCESS FROM LAA KINGDOM.
I WAS JUST STARTING TO GET BORED.
SO...
Prin-cess

WOBBLE
SLAP
LET ME GO, YOU INSOLENT FOOL!
RARU!
NO, YOUR HIGH-NESS, IT WAS MY FAULT.
Get off me!
Nuh uh!
I MUST'VE STARTLED HIM WHEN I PICKED HIM UP.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THAT PRINCESS!?
LORD RARU!
I mean
RARU! WHAT ON EARTH —!?
Uh
oops

SQUEEZE
UH...
N-
NO.
I'M SORRY, RARU.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU DIDN'T LIKE TO BE PICKED UP.
YOU'RE ALREADY WORKING, AFTER ALL. YOU'RE ALMOST A GROWN-UP.
I, ER...
Sorry
WELL...
T.U.R.N
FREEZE
Prin
P
BUT IT'S NOT NICE TO HIT GIRLS!
TUG TUG
HA HA HA HA
SORRY FOR TREATING YOU LIKE A KID.
I HOPE WE CAN TALK AGAIN LATER.
UNTIL THEN.
TUG
!?
SLAM
Scribblings
I'M VERY SORRY, YOUR MAJESTY.
I'M SUDDENLY QUITE TIRED. I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE FOR THE DAY.

MORE
UH... WHO WAS THAT?
PRINCESS SESHUN, FROM LAA KINGDOM.
LAA KINGDOM?
SHE'S THE YOUNGEST PRINCESS OF A TINY KINGDOM.
Her crazy stunts are famous
WH-WHAT GIVES!?
SMACK
LITTLE BOYS SHOULDN'T POUT!
OH, YEAH? WELL, WOMEN SHOULDN'T HIT!
Don't smack me!
SHUT UP!
TO BE A GROWN-UP, YOU MUST ACT LIKE ONE. ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE FORGETTING?
WELL?
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
.....

I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
I'M SO SORRY! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
GRIT
Darn brat!
I SAID I'M SORRY.
WHAT WAS THAT?
Excuse me?
Hmph...
FINE! I'M SORRY!
MUTTER
TURN
ALL RIGHT, I THINK A HAND-SHAKE'S IN ORDER.
Silly
I PROMISE NOT TO PINCH.
REACH
FREEZE
PISSED
Must endure!
WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
OKAY?
LET'S MAKE UP.

N--NOBODY'S EVER TOLO ME THAT BEFORE.
MAYBE SHE'S JUST TREATING ME LIKE A KID AGAIN.
HER EYES ARE SO STRONG.
LIKE THEY'RE NOT AFRAID OF ANY-THING.
HMPH.
BUT...
SLAP
MAYBE SHE'S NOT JUST KIDDING ME.
WAA
WAAAH
BUT...
Your Highness let us in!
Your Highness!
Please open up!
BANG
BANG

PRINCESS... SESHUN...
ROLL
WHAT A STRANGE LADY.
I DOUBT I'LL EVER SEE HER AGAIN.
HOW COULD WE BE "FRIENDS"?
A STRANGE WOMAN...
HIC
HIC

E--
EVERY-
ONE...
...SAYS
I'M...W--
WEIRD!
I
CAN'T
STANO
IT!
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?
WHY
ARE YOU
CRYING?
ARE
YOU
HURT?
HIC
WEIRO?
BUT, WHY?
C--CUZ I'M
OIFFERENT
FROM EVERY-
ONE IN MY
FAMILY.
THEY SAIO I
HAVE WEIRO
COLORS.
HUH?
WHY WOULO
THEY?
THEY'RE SO
PRETTY!
SNIFFLE
?
PRETTY?

YUP!
THEY'RE PERFECT THE WAY THEY ARE!
I ALMOST WISH I HAD THEM, TOO!
R--REALLY?
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
THE KING LIKES THE WAY I LOOK?
YEAH!
AS PRETTY AS A PRINCESS!
THEY'RE ALL SPARKLY!
WELL, I...CAN'T GIVE THEM TO YOU...
BUT...
IN-STEAD!!
...HOW ABOUT YOU...
...MAKE ME YOUR QUEEN WHEN I GET OLDER!

SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
GOOOOD MORNING, LORD RARU!
WHAT THE...?
THAT WAS JUST A DREAM...
THUNK
.....
FUME FUME
UGH, WHAT A WAY TO START THE DAY...
Why'd he sneak up on me like that?
SWING
WHAT A STRANGE DREAM. I COULD HARDLY UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE WAS SAYING.
OH!
AND, FIRST OF ALL, WHY WAS SHE—
MORN-ING, RARU!
YOU'RE UP EARLY!

I'M HERE BECAUSE...
...I'VE GOTTEN APPROVAL TO STUDY POLITICS!
AND YOU'VE BEEN RECOM-MENDED AS MY TUTOR!
WH-WH-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
HUH?
FLAP FLAP
OH, HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
S--SOME-THING THE MATTER? WHY THE FACE?
SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME ALREADY.
WHAT!?
N--NO! NOT AT ALL!
WHY WOULD I BE UPSET?
YOU'RE NOT UPSET, ARE YOU?
WH--WHO TOLD YOU TO DO THAT!?
WHY, THE KING, OF COURSE.
Your face looks so big
WHY, THAT SNEAKY LITTLE...

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
IT'LL BE SO MUCH FUN STUDYING WITH YOU.
AND IF YOU REFUSE... WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN, RIGHT?
HEH HEH HEH
SEE, I'M THE TYPE TO HOLD A GRUDGE.

IS SHE SERIOUS?

IS SHE JUST TRYING TO GET CLOSE TO "KING ADELLE" THROUGH ME?

WHY WOULD SHE WANT A KID LIKE ME TO TEACH HER?

SHE'S ALWAYS CHEERFUL...
...BUT NEVER RUOE, OR OVERLY AFFECTIONATE.
BUT... I OON'T FEEL ANY-THING LIKE THAT FROM HER.
SHE SEEMS TO BE TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY.
I'VE NEVER HAD SOMEONE...
...LIKE THIS TO TALK WITH.
PEEK
I see...
And then
See?
SHE ALWAYS MAKES ME FEEL GOOD.

OH! YOUR HIGHNESS!
RARU'S IN THE OTHER ROOM. HE'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
CLATTER
Please don't stand up
THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT.
UH, LADY SESHUN?
WITH ME?
Y--YES. YOU SEE...
IT'S ABOUT... RARU.
THAT IS...
MAY I ASK WHAT YOU THINK OF HIM?
EXCUSE ME?
UH... OKAY?
OH, I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE.
Eh, heh
WHAT DO I THINK?
I THINK HE'S A GOOD KID. SMART AND SENSIBLE.

WHAT IS HE DOING!?
SNEAK
I can't hear!
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT!?
YES, HE REALLY IS A GOOD BOY.
DASH
HE'S CERTAINLY TAKING HIS TIME.

.....
Hmm
EXCUSE ME.
YES?
CLATTER
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T I–
NO, NO. IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL.
I CAN'T ASK A PRINCESS LIKE YOU TO DO THAT.
All right
YOU'RE RIGHT. I WONDER WHAT COULD BE THE MATTER.
I'LL GO FIND HIM.
IF I'M WRONG ABOUT THIS, I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT...
UM...
COULD IT BE THAT THE KING–

LORD RA–
THE REFLECTION ...
EXCUSE ME?
LORD RARU?
THE PRINCESS IS WAITING FOR YOU.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE! WHAT IS THE MATTER?
LORD RARU!
SO THERE YOU ARE!
I WAS LOOKING AT MYSELF...
...IN THE WATER'S REFLEC-TION.
MY HANDS ...AND FEET.
THEY'RE LIKE A CHILD'S.
NOT LIKE ME AT ALL.
I COULD NEVER GET ALONG WITH HER LIKE YOU DO.
EVEN WHEN I'M RIGHT BESIDE HER...

NO, IT'S NOT THAT...
...I DISLIKE HER OR ANYTHING.
I JUST THINK... SHE'S PECULIAR.
LORD RARU.
.....
AND...
ARE YOU UNHAPPY WITH LADY SESHUN?
...WHO COULD EVER TAKE A KID LIKE ME SERI-OUSLY?
O-OH! YOU MEAN *THAT!?*
WHY, THAT'S NORMAL FOR A WOMAN LIKE HER!
Hm
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW SHE FEELS IF YOU DON'T *ASK* HER!
IRK
WHY DON'T YOU JUST PRO-POSE TO HER NOW? THAT WAY, WHEN YOU GROW UP...
!
THEN YOU CAN...
ENOUGH.
I...

I SAID ENOUGH!!
Huh?
LORD RARU...
"WHEN I GROW UP"? HA! YOU MEAN WHEN I BECOME AN ADULT?
YOU KNOW I'M OLDER THAN YOU! BUT THE WAY I LOOK, NOBODY CAN TELL -
WHAM
ALL RIGHT, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME HOW I CAN GROW UP? HUH!?
I'VE BEEN LIKE THIS MY WHOLE LIFE... WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WON'T STAY LIKE THIS FOR THE REST OF IT!?
IDIOT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
.....

DID YOU THINK I'D APPRECIATE IT?
EH?
KING RARU OF IMULU?
His full name
YOU...! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
YOU DESERVED IT.
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU KEEP SOMEONE IN THE DARK LIKE THAT.
AH.
THINKING YOU COULD LIE TO ME.
FORGIVE ME! I SPILLED IT!
!!!
GLARE
ENOUGH WITH THE TANTRUMS. YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF.
DAZE
HOW DARE YOU...!
GRAB
Wah!
Eek! I'm sorry!
WHAT'RE YOU SCREAMING AT HIM FOR? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SPILLED IT.
I've got no space!

NOW THEN.
MAY I ASK SOMETHING OF YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS?
WHAT DO YOU SAY AT TIMES LIKE THESE?
SLAP
OH?
He's being hung by the collar.
WORRY WORRY
YOU...
WHAT DO YOU KNOW? BEING MADE FUN OF...
FOR LOOKING LIKE A KID... AND HAVING NO ONE TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY...
HAVING PEOPLE SAY THAT YOU WEIRD THEM OUT...
IT'S THIS KID HERE?

THIS IS OUR NEW KING?
HUH...?
THIS KID'S HIM?
IT'S NOT EVEN WORTH TALKING ABOUT.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, UNDERSTAND?
YOU... YOU'RE ALWAYS JUST SMILING.
BECAUSE YOU'RE *NORMAL.*
YOU ACT LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE A WORRY IN THE WORLD...
HOW COULD *YOU* UNDERSTAND ME?
YOU'VE NEVER FELT THE WAY I DO!
YOU...!

I DO UNDER-STAND.
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE DIFFERENT FROM EVERY-ONE ELSE!
TO NOT EVEN BE SURE WHAT YOU ARE!
HOW COULD YOU EVER UNDERSTAND HOW IT IS!?
EVERYONE HAS A SECRET.
AND ALL HUMANS ARE DIFFERENT.
I...

ARE YOU A BAD PERSON?
LISTEN, RARU.
TAKE ME, FOR INSTANCE. EVERYONE FEARED MY STRANGELY COLORED EYES.
...DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY WAY TO FORCE YOURSELF TO BE LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE.
NO. I LIKE YOU THE WAY YOU ARE -- CHEEKY AND OBSTINATE.
MAYBE YOU'LL CHANGE, A LITTLE BIT AT A TIME...
BUT SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME I WAS BEAUTIFUL, SO I'M OKAY WITH MYSELF NOW.
...BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF.
BECAUSE WHAT YOU'LL BECOME IS WHAT YOU'LL BECOME.

IT'S OKAY.
YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST THE TYPE THAT TAKES TIME TO GROW.
I ALWAYS...
THE ROYAL FAMILY'S LINE HAS ALWAYS BEEN LONG-LIVED.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT I WANTED TO HURRY UP AND GROW BIGGER.
THAT I HAD TO HURRY AND BECOME A FULL-GROWN MAN.
I USED TO THINK...THAT NO ONE LIKED ME BECAUSE OF MY SIZE.
YOU'LL TAKE AS MUCH TIME AS YOU NEED TO GROW.

SOMEHOW, MY HEART FEELS MUCH LIGHTER.
...THEN MAYBE IT'S REALLY TRUE.
BUT IF THERE'S AT LEAST ONE PERSON WHO'LL TELL ME THAT I'M FINE HOW I AM... SOMEONE TO SAY IT OUT LOUD...
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "HOW'D I KNOW"?
THANK YOU.

TH-- THAT'S NOT IT...
Huh?
Aah, YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE THINKING THAT I KNEW ALL ALONG, NOW WOULD YOU?
HOW DO YOU THINK I KNEW?
.....
WELL...
WHY NOW, OF ALL TIMES?
Here you are
...FOR SOME REASON, I'VE JUST BEEN WONDERING...
IT'S HOPE-LESS...
This was all your idea anyway! Raw semi
Quiet!
IT SEEMS HE'S COM-PLETELY FORGOTTEN.
Wh- who's me?
Hm?
NO MATTER HOW YOU CAST HIM, HE HAS A QUIET, UNASSUMING PERSONALITY.
YOUR SERVANT, ADELLE, IS NOT AT ALL KINGLY MATE-RIAL.
YOU MADE A MISTAKE IN CHOOS-ING YOUR REPLACE-MENT, YOUR HIGHNESS.
GLARE
.....
NEXT TIME, PREPARE ADELLE'S COSTUME A LITTLE BET-TER.
I THINK WE SHOULD JUST STOP THIS RUSE ENTIRELY...
OOPS
AND WHAT'S MORE, YOU WERE ALWAYS WEARING THE ROYAL COLOR OF WHITE.
.....
Rawr!
Again with the milk!?
HEY, THAT'S NOT FAIR! I-
SHUT UP! THIS IS ALL THANKS TO YOUR POOR ACT-ING!

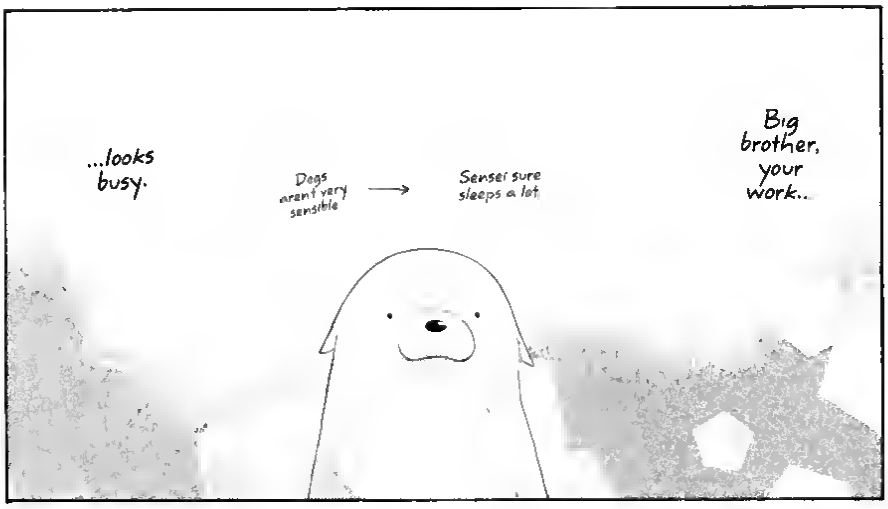
MAGIC WORDS ✝ END

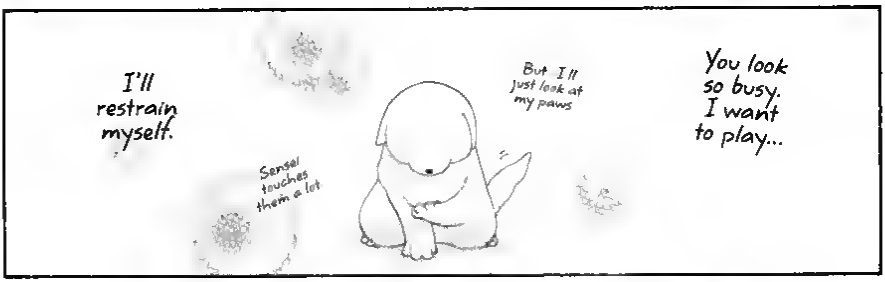
BLACK SUN
SILVER MOON

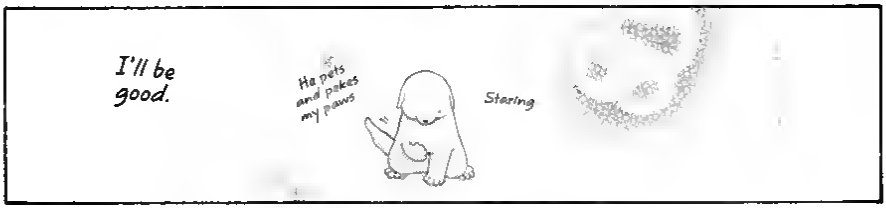
Bonus Manga

Big brother's always doing work.

You can't expect someone who's sleeping to clean up, can you?


...looks busy.
Dogs aren't very sensible
Sensei sure sleeps a lot
Big brother, your work..


I'll restrain myself.
Sensei touches them a lot
But I'll just look at my paws
You look so busy. I want to play...


I'll be good.
He pets and pokes my paws
Staring

Hurry

It might be a while, though.
Ack! You little!
Naaa I'm sleepy...
I wonder if he'll play with me when he's done working
But I really wanna play...
TOPPLE

MESS
I fell down
COUGH
IF YOU'RE GONNA SLEEP, GO TO YOUR RO–
GREAT, NOW I'VE GOTTA CLEAN THAT ALL UP!
CRASH!!
Huh?
I didn't wanna
SENSEI
FLAP
TUMBLE
Eek!
PULL
Mmm!!
Gotta move this!
TUG TUG TUG
I'll help clean!
Here we go!
IN THE END, I DIDN'T GET TO PLAY WITH HIM AFTER ALL...
Why ?
Shes so disappointed
we'll be done in no time!
With my help
AGI...
Not you, too!
Zzz

Afterword

THANK YOU TO ALL MY EDITORS AND YOU READERS OUT THERE.

I AM HAPPY THAT MY WORK HAS NOW BECOME A COMPLETE VOLUME.

ESPECIALLY TO MY MANAGER, WHO REALLY SAVED ME WITH THIS ONE.

I WANT TO SHAPE UP AND MATURE. MENTALLY, THAT IS...

I'D CALL THIS WORK THE RESULT OF CONSTANTLY CAUSING TROUBLE FOR OTHERS WHILE CONTINUING TO DRAW.

I'M QUITE PLEASED WITH HOW THIS TURNED OUT. I'M SOARING THROUGH THE AIR...AND PANICKING A LITTLE, TOO. ABOUT THE DEADLINES, I MEAN...

WHILE PHYSICALLY, I WANT IT ALL TO JUST STOP.

THANKS ♡ MY HELPER AKIZUKI-SAN.

SINCE THERE'S A LITTLE MORE TO HAPPEN IN THIS STORY, I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D STICK AROUND FOR IT.

WELL, UNTIL THEN.

Kokkuri-san & the Ouija Board

"Kokkuri-san" is a traditional way to communicate with the dead -- via the helpful and ambiguous spirit, Kokkuri-san -- sort of like our Western Ouija Board.

The Look...

The board looks a lot like a Ouija Board with YES, NO, the alphabet and numbers painted on it for the spirit to "talk" to us with. Instead of a footed planchette, a 10-yen coin is placed on the board for the spirit to use as a pointer, sliding it around the board to spell out his message. The main difference between the Kokkuri-san board and the Ouija Board is that there's a torii – a Shinto shrine archway -- at the top center where play begins and where the coin comes to rest once Kokkuri has finished answering the question.

How to Play...

To draw out the spirit, one chants the name "Kokkuri-san, Kokkuri-san" as all participants rest their fingers on the coin. The initial question is always to confirm whether or not he is indeed present and once that is answered by the creepy movement of the coin toward the "YES," the session continues.

The rules are very strict and if any are broken — such as quitting halfway or lifting one's finger from the coin —the players must dissolve the resulting curse by drawing a star five times on their forehead with a finger dipped in water. Also, the coin used in the game must be spent within three days following the session.

A Bit of History...

It was in the mid-1800's in the United States that Ouija Boards, or "Talking Boards" became a craze. The initial contraptions included a rocking table and more complex planchettes that involved actual pencils to do the spiritual writing! The advent of Japan's Kokkuri-san developed just a couple of decades later and still lives on as a staple of Japanese childhood.

In Volume 2 of

BLACK SUN SILVER MOON

Can a silver-eyed stranger shatter the fragile bond between Shikimi and the only one who can save him?

BONUS TALK

BLACK SUN SILVER MOON

Perhaps... this is my shortest recording of draft sketchings (up until now).
We're at the height of rainy season right now. In this little room with no air-conditioning, I remember drawing while grappling with the tone inks. I'm in one of the more humid regions, that's for sure...
I just improvised these characters, but their personalities are so different and distinct, it makes them easy to work with.
I was happy when I was given the green light to continue drawing them and their story.

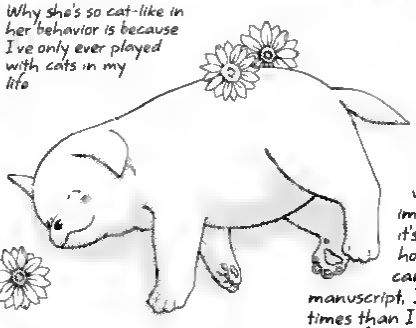
TAKI JUHAS
18 years old. A man of firm character?

SHIKIMI FARKASH
28 years old.
(He's got a child's face...)

These two just don't look right in normal clothing. Perhaps, that will remain true from here on in. I know it's impossible to say that tight-fitting clothes are more comfortable but, yeah...

They're just about the same size. Maybe around 5'7"? Though, since Taki's still in his growth period, he might overpass Shikimi soon enough. To say that I have a good idea of world cultures would be a downright lie, but since I've always liked the Eastern European flavor, I sorta kept that in mind when designing them, though there were plenty of other influences, too.

Why she's so cat-like in her behavior is because I've only ever played with cats in my life



AGI

She's 10—or at least, she's supposed to be. She always looks so soft

PERSON WITH A KIND HAND

This story was decided by a meeting arranged while I was in the middle of a bath. Looks like the cat's out of the bag. Why'd you have to tell them that on the phone, Mom? It's a story I've always wanted to convey. Which was then granted immediately. I've always fantasized that though it's a scary thought, the dead coming back home to those they love, there's also saving that can happen thanks to them. For my first color manuscript, I was so nervous that I had to redraw it more times than I can count. Thanks to it the dog became a quick favorite. And when I do a poor job, even more than the human characters. Though I'm still inexperienced, I'm satisfied that I'm able to draw. Though looking back, there are little points here and there that I'm dissatisfied with

PERSON WHO SMILES

For the first time in a while, we see Taki's smile. Because he's usually just pissed off, it's a good change once in a while. So just which one is the "Person" in the title? It was sort of trying always having to draw middle-aged men in this chapter though. Not like I can blame anyone though since I made the chapter to include them so much. I really am not one to enjoy patterns like this

MAGIC WORDS

This is something I drew around the time of my debut. And as an amateur, it became my last work—or so it was supposed to. I myself must harbor a number of complexes I bet. Since I'm that kind of person, it seems like this story was just a self-justification or something.

I really liked the name "Seshun." I learned that in some language it means "mugwort flower." So I can't help thinking that has a very lovely nuance to it

TAKI JUHAS

LOOKS

AGE: 18
SEX: MALE
EYE COLOR: BLACK
HAIR COLOR: BLACK
HEIGHT: 5'7"

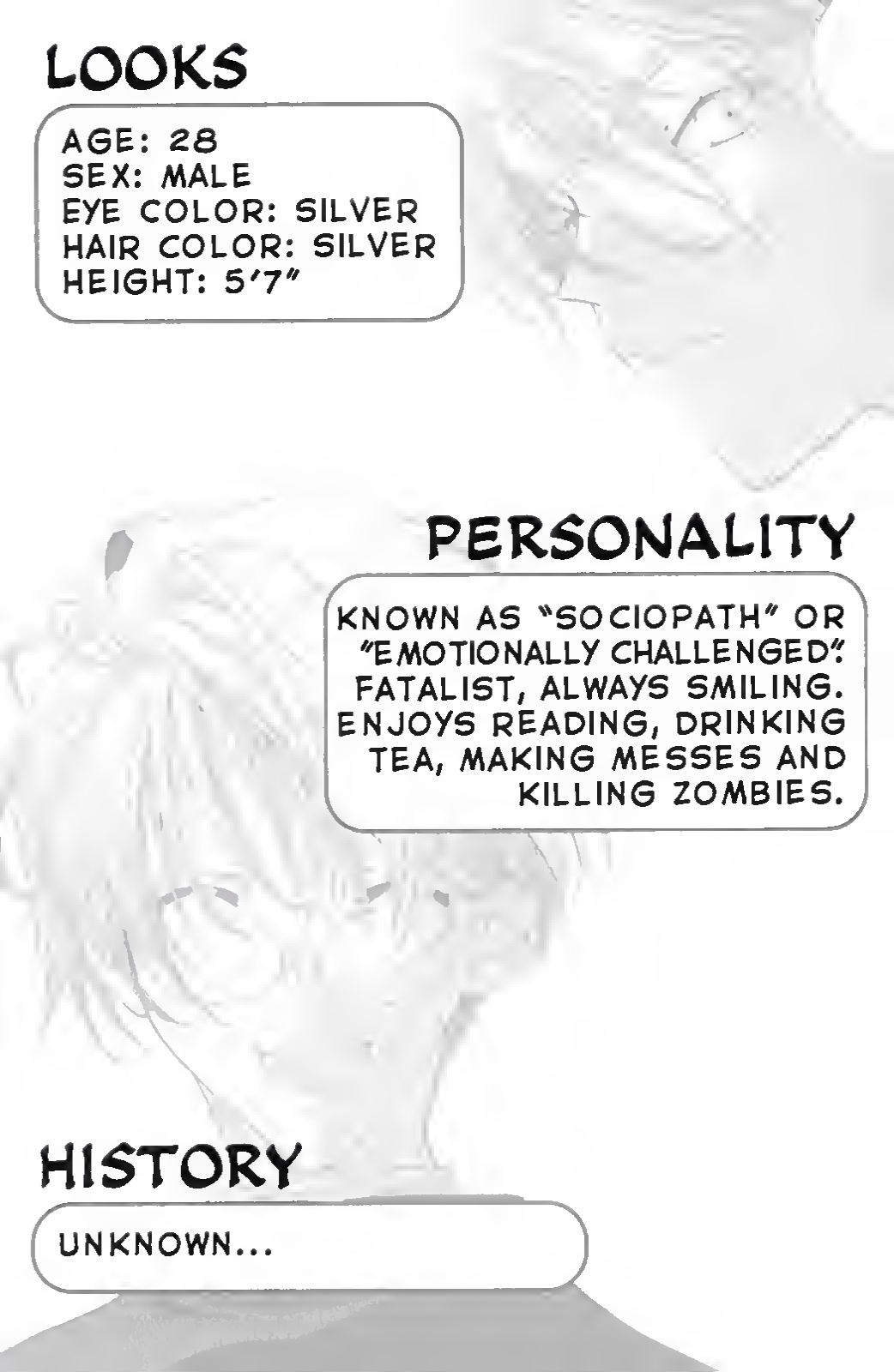
PERSONALITY

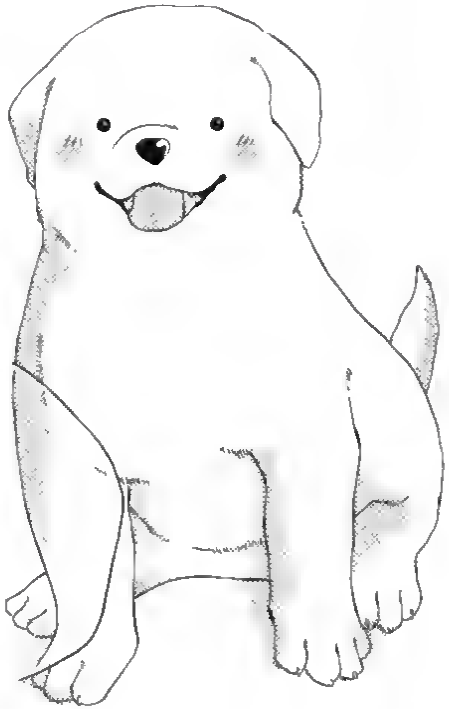
STUBBON, HARD-WORKING, FEARLESS. ALWAYS SAYS WHAT HE'S THINKING. DISLIKES DOGS, ZOMBIES, AND GIVING UP.

HISTORY

OLDEST CHILD OF A LARGE FAMILY, FATHER DECEASED. WORKING AT THE CHURCH TO PAY OFF HIS FATHER'S DEBT.

SHIKIMI & FARKASH


LOOKS
AGE: 28
SEX: MALE
EYE COLOR: SILVER
HAIR COLOR: SILVER
HEIGHT: 5'7"
PERSONALITY
KNOWN AS "SOCIOPATH" OR "EMOTIONALLY CHALLENGED". FATALIST, ALWAYS SMILING. ENJOYS READING, DRINKING TEA, MAKING MESSES AND KILLING ZOMBIES.
HISTORY
UNKNOWN...



AGH

LOOKS

AGE: UNDEAD
SEX: FEMALE
EYE COLOR: SILVER
FUR COLOR: SILVER
HEIGHT: TINY

PERSONALITY

CAREFREE, DETERMINED
LOYAL, STUBBORN, PLAYFUL.
LOVES TAKI, ATTENTION,
BEING PLAYED WITH, AND
FRESH BLOOD.

HISTORY

WAS ABANDONED AS A PUPPY OVER TEN YEARS AGO, UNOFFICALLY ADOPTED BY TAKI. REBORN OUT OF LOVE FOR HER KIND MASTER.

BLACK SUN SILVER MOON (KURO NO TAIYO GIN NO TSUKI) Vol.1
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